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Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago Sign IDB Loan Agreements

FL0104021493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2157 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Report by Kendol Morgan]

[Text] Hamburg, Germany, March 31, CANA—Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago on Wednesday [31 March] signed loan agreements with the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], as the IDB's 34th annual meeting ended in Hamburg, Germany. The Trinidad and Tobago loan of U.S. 31.5 million dollars will go towards improving 150 kilometres of access roads to agricultural estates, Planning Minister Lennie Saith told CANA. The idea, he said, was to improve the infrastructure in the agricultural sector to enable farmers to gain access to their properties and bring out their produce more easily.

Financial Secretary Shirley Tyndall, who led Jamaica's delegation to the meeting, signed a loan contract for U.S. 57.5 million dollars to help finance a private sector energy development programme. The World Bank and the European Investment Bank are also providing part of the 180 million dollars, estimated cost of the programme.

The signing by the two countries came amid growing concern among Caribbean and IDB officials about the low utilisation of resources available from the IDB. A senior bank official disclosed that less than half of the U.S. 1.5 billion dollars in the pipeline for the five Caricom members of the IDB in the current five-year period, 1989 to 1994, will be drawn down. Head of the Caribbean division of the IDB, Jadeesh Siewrattan, said the problem is largely one of inadequate skills in project identification and preparation Guyana's Finance Minister Asgar Ally agrees that this has limited Guyana's utilisation of its U.S. 177 million dollars allocated by the IDB.

"I think in many cases the difficulties have been that the loans were signed, but the administrative arrangement for the draw-down were not put in place," Ally told CANA. "We have in fact now put a team of people at the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme office) in Georgetown to help us with these problems, and I have instituted a special task force in the Ministry of Finance which is working with the state planning secretariat to facilitate the draw-down of IDB funds," he added.

A Bahamas spokesman called for additional IDB support to help the Caribbean target the funds.

"To the extent that absorptive capacities need expanding, we would welcome further support from the bank in the form of technical assistance, he told the annual meeting in a statement made on behalf of the five English-speaking IDB member countries—Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica, and The Bahamas. The countries have already identified areas for possible IDB assistance. "We have a pipeline of projects in the social sector as well as in terms of the entire restructuring of the economy that is of vital importance to us," Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford told CANA.

Trinidad's finance minister, Lennie Saith, said the Republic was negotiating an investment sector loan to help improve the investment environment.

"It will be between 80 and 100 million US dollars and I am going to Washington in mid-April for final negotiations, and we hope to conclude that in April, with it going to the board of the bank in May," he said. Trinidad and Tobago has been allocated five hundred million dollars by the IDB.

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS] member countries have access to IDB resources through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Caribbean delegates called on the IDB to give special consideration to them, with the provision of funds to the Caribbean Development Bank on a concessional basis for on-lending to the OECS members.

Cuba

Castro Attends Presentation of New Foreign Minister

FL0104235593 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Today, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz attended the presentation of Roberto Robaina as the Cuban Foreign Minister, which was held with the official farewell of Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada. Fidel talked with workers and officials of the Foreign Relations Ministry about the government's important decision to appoint Roberto Robaina to carry out these duties.

New Foreign Minister Remarks on UJC, Foreign Policy

FL0104151693 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 1 Apr 93

["Excerpts" of interview with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by Pedro Martinez Piret and Rosalia Arnaez on the "This Very Day" program—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Arnaez] One of the concerns the people have, among others, resulting from the appointment of Roberto Robaina to the post of foreign minister is that today, when the youth need you so much, you are leaving the youth movement. Who is heading the movement? What do you think? This is the first thing I would like to know. Has the bureau of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] met?

[Robaina] I believe, Rosalia, Martinez, and Hector Rodriguez, that this might be a just concern for us and many of the present leaders of the youth, but a great number of youth have been preparing for this moment. What the youth movement has accomplished is above the personal work of whomever might be occupying a post, such as mine in this case. I believe that, fortunately, we can even report that these decisions have just been made.

Just a few hours ago, the UJC National Bureau met happily with Fidel, Machado, and Lage's participation. It completed the process of something that for us was very natural. I have the privilege of announcing that UJC Second Secretary Juan Contino is now heading the youth. You will have an opportunity to interview him. Tomorrow the media will help spread this news. He is now at the helm. He is a young man highly prepared in many areas and with many responsibilities. He is much younger than me.

As a natural progression, Contino is replaced by Miguel Diaz Canela, someone known by our youth and also by you. You have had the opportunity to (?talk with him). He was until now a member of the bureau in charge of ideology affairs. Diaz is in turn replaced by the present chief of the ideology bureau, comrade Raul Montes de Oca. All of them are well known. [passage omitted]

[Arnaez] Do you have any ideas about what kind of a minister you will be? I can see that you already have changed your hair style.

[Robaina] I sincerely believe that a minister is not made overnight. I, sincerely, still have problems comprehending the full dimension of this responsibility. I have been thinking about it for several hours now. [passage omitted] As I was told of the political dimension and task in which the revolution needed my services, I said what the leadership of the revolution has always said: I am soldier; if at this time it is believed that I have fulfilled my mission with the youth, fine; my duty is fulfilled. [passage omitted]

[Martinez] I would like to hear about the priorities of Cuba's foreign policies and also some important foreign activities for 1993.

[Robaina] I believe I can briefly talk about certain present foreign policy priorities that can be summarized as follows: First, we have to talk about a special period foreign policy. We have to talk about a foreign service that has to be up to par with the efforts the people are conducting during the special period. We have to talk about a foreign policy that puts in first place the continued and systematic effort to eliminate the embargo, which is becoming more unfair, anachronic, and cruel every day. Next, we have to coordinate and organize a massive solidarity movement that is rising throughout the whole world and that the experts at the ministry describe as comparable with the movement during the sixties, the first years of the revolution. I believe that it is a priority of our ministry and work to mobilize that opinion, to coordinate all those efforts, and for that solidarity to find a path so that we are not told that people want to help us but they find it very difficult. We have to coordinate these efforts. We have to mobilize the international public opinion toward this goal. I believe that we have to disarticulate the immense campaigns launched against every endeavor Cuba undertakes. I believe these are among the top priorities.

There are two other extremely important priorities. One is to continue our struggle to democratize the United Nations more every day. I believe that we have to help in eliminating the hegemonic role that the United States wants to exert in the world. I believe our role in this struggle is extremely important. I also believe we have to do everything we can to fulfill and follow up on the accords of the last Nonaligned Movement summit, particularly the part of the Jakarta declaration regarding Cuba and its international relations. I would say these are the essential priorities. These, of course, are closely related to our lives these days and the events taking place.

I believe there are many other things we have to do in the international arena. One has very special characteristics. It is known that the next Ibero-American summit is being organized and will be held in Bahia, Brazil, in July, and, of course, this requires an intense effort. The Foreign Ministry will have to conduct this effort in a dynamic manner, keeping realities in mind. This will require a special effort from all of us. There are many activities in the international arena from now until the summit. There is the human rights summit. There is a whole series of activities in which we have to participate. In September, of course, we have the National Assembly meeting, which is also an

important issue. As you can see, it is a very complex situation but there are many capable people at the ministry and there are many people who also feel united with us, because these priorities are not my priorities. This is a joint effort we are all undertaking. [passage omitted]

Discusses Priorities

PA0104134793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] New Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said in Havana that priorities in his work include the struggle against the U.S. blockade and the coordination of the international solidarity movement for that objective.

In his first television appearance since his appointment, Robaina said the Foreign Ministry will also participate in efforts to democratize the United Nations and to prepare a broad program for the coming Ibero-American presidential summit in Brazil.

Robaina said Cuba's foreign policy should be consistent with the special period and the people's present effort. Commenting on his appointment as foreign minister, Robaina said it is proof of trust in the new generation. During the "This Very Day" program, Robaina said he will have to speak a language different from that used when he led the Union of Communist Youths. Nevertheless, he expressed confidence in the Foreign Ministry's team work and the caliber of the experts working with him.

Makes Statements on Foreign Policy

FL0204035393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Today in Havana, Roberto Robaina, the new Cuban foreign minister, reiterated his decision to continue the foreign policy of our country, which centers on revolutionary principles. Robaina said that these are principles that we can never give up.

In his statements to PRENSA LATINA press agency, Robaina said that the Cuban foreign policy has been formed over many years and that any changes made in that area are conditioned on the circumstances that life itself may impose.

Robaina, who is 37 years old, was appointed new foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba on 30 March by the Council of State. Regarding relations with the United States, the Cuban minister said: We maintain the possibility of conversing, as long as they do not set conditions and respect the country's right to speak with its own voice to clearly state what our ideas and principles are.

Regarding Cuban diplomacy, Robaina said that it was a privilege to represent a cause such as the revolution. He said that Cuba's voice will focus on demonstrating the reality of our country and the efforts that are being made to overcome its difficulties. Robaina said that under the current circumstances of U.S. hostility, Cuba needs many friends and that its truth, possibilities, and ways of accepting the present situation are being made known to the rest of the world.

New First Secretary Appointed to Union of Young Communists

PA0104140293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The secretariat of the Union of Young Communists has appointed Juan Contino as the new first secretary to replace Roberto Robaina, who has been appointed foreign minister. Prior to his appointment, Contino held the post of second secretary of the organization. This information was provided by Robaina during the "This Very Day" program on Cuban television.

United Vigilance and Protection System Begins in Villa Clara

FL0104161193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] In Villa Clara, the United Vigilance and Protection System [SUVP] exercise, All United III, began this morning at 0700. At this time, the All United III exercise has a preventive nature in the community. It is geared toward preventing cattle rustling and slaughter, the fight against economic crime, and revolutionary vigilance with the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution patrols.

As in previous exercises, exemplary trials will be conducted; the penal process will be strengthened; the search for fugitives and wanted persons will continue, as well as increasing vigilance at agricultural enterprises and facilities, poultry farms, and ranches in the province.

Commentary Denies 'Rumors' of Economic Collapse

PA0204041393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Commentary by Miguel de la Guardia]

[Text] The difficult economic situation Cuba is facing as a result of the collapse of the Eastern European socialist community, with which the country carried out 85 percent of its foreign trade, in addition to the intensification of the economic blockade the United States has been imposing on the island for more than three decades, has placed the country in the midst of a siege that is not only economic but psychological.

Cuban enemies are now circulating rumors that the Cuban economy will collapse no later than July. This type of nefarious prediction has been made for over two years, and it is not the first time that the great media, particularly in the United States, have echoed those reports, giving them worldwide or at least continental publicity. Cuba, however, stands firm, resisting, and struggling, much to the astonishment of the naive, who have given credit to such hoaxes.

When the situation was normal in the so-called socialist bloc, Cuba received and refined approximately 13 million

tons of oil per year, which was regularly supplied by the extinct USSR. Since the socialist disaster occurred two years ago, this small country has had to survive with less than half of that amount of oil, acquired with dollars from various sources under uncertain conditions.

The lack of fuel has been the most serious problem among the adversities affecting Cuba and one of the main arguments used by those predicting a disaster in the Cuban economy; therefore, the reports published this week by the Cuban Ministry of Basic Industry on the efforts the country is making to become self-sufficient to meet its oil needs are most appropriate.

Jose Perez Othon, first vice minister of basic industry, expressed on 30 March to Cuban television and other media sources the certainty that there are large oil fields in Cuba and that through the cooperation of foreign companies associated with the Cuban state in oil exploration and exploitation, in a few years we will resolve or at least alleviate the acute fuel crisis affecting the country, which absorbs a large part of its monetary resources.

Those who are trying to sabotage Cuban efforts to resist and overcome the difficulties and attacks it is facing are trying to discourage those who are investing or planning to invest in this country, because they know we will move forward and will frustrate the intentions of the opportunists and looters, who collaborate with our worst enemies.

Vice Foreign Minister, British Minister Discuss Relations

FL0104174393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Today, in London, [name indistinct], the British minister of state for Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Community, met with Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez-Parodi. In their meeting they discussed the development and the perspectives for strengthening bilateral relations, the effects of the storm of the century in our country, and the position of the UK to offer some kind of assistance. The two leaders spoke of the Cuban economy and its perspectives for development.

Also in London, (Richard Niholmas), the British minister for foreign trade [title as heard], met with Ernesto Melendez, president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation. During their conversation it was pointed out with satisfaction that a significant number of British firms are participating in the Euromoney conference, the activity that motivated Melendez's visit to Great Britain. The conference will begin tomorrow in The Royal Cafe [as heard] in London.

The two leaders also talked about the forthcoming visit by a delegation of British businessmen to Cuba, which is seen as another step in the exploration of the Cuban market by British companies. Melendez explained Cuba's economic policy and the formation of joint economic ventures abroad. Great Britain's position was also praised in light of the Torricelli Law, which the United States promulgated in 1992 to intensify the illegal U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Three Technical-Cooperation Agreements Signed With FAO

FL0104202293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Three technical-cooperation projects were signed today in Havana City between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO] and Cuba. (Augusto Simoes Lopez), representative of the FAO in Cuba, and Raul Taladrid, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, signed the documents.

Two of the documents are directed at the Fishing Industry and the other is directed toward supporting the development of technologies to produce soybean seeds and is worth $125,000. The agreements relating to fishing establish the control of water vegetation with commercial possibilities in reservoirs and protecting the environment through purifying residual liquid of the Fishing Industry with microalgaes and obtaining its products. The projects are worth $35,000 and $95,000 respectively. [passage omitted]

Sports Relations Agreement Signed With Germany

FL0104233593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2044 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Today in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, an agreement was signed between Cuba and Germany with the objective of intensifying sports relations between the two countries. (Hans Hansen), president of the German Sports Confederation, and Conrado Martinez Corona, president of the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation [INDER], discussed current bilateral relations.

During the meeting, the two officials highlighted the development of the sports agreements and agreed to encourage national federations and other organizations to participate in the exchange of athletes and specialists. (Hansen) and Martinez coincided in stating that these organizations should continue cooperation programs and ideas at a central level between the German Sports Confederation and the INDER.

Haiti

Popular Organizations Propose Candidates for Prime Minister

FL0104235293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Several popular organizations took the initiative of proposing candidates for prime minister. This initiative came up against the firm and uncompromising position of some of the leaders of the organizations that met on 31 March at the Christopher Hotel. Guilloto Francois has the following report:

[Begin Francois recording, in Creole] The choice of a prime minister to work with Aristide was the subject of a

meeting on 31 March at the Christopher Hotel. Several popular organizations, labor unions, and peasant groups took part in the discussion in which names of several people were cited as prime minister, such as General Herard Abrahams, Leslie Delatour, Gerard Gourges, and Serge Gilles. These organizations were to sign a final paper regarding the person selected before giving it to the mediator in the Haitian crisis. According to a sector of the organizations, the prime minister should be able to restore unity in Haiti. This same sector let it be known that the choice of prime minister also depends on political context. [passage omitted] While several of the people attending the meeting were about to designate Serge Gilles as their choice for prime minister, the entire audience stood to protest this recommendation. The meeting turned into a disturbance, with each party criticizing the others. [passage omitted]. The parties did not get to agree on the choice of a person for prime minister. Some of the organizations believe that Aristide is free to choose his own prime minister. Rene Theodore remains the only person Aristide had designated as prime minister. He was chosen within the framework of the Washington Agreement, with several Haitian parliamentarians, in the presence of OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soarez. [end recording]

It should be mentioned that later in the evening, the organizations unanimously agreed on the name of Serge Gilles as prime minister, to assure the transition and social appeasement that would allow the return to Haiti of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. This note was sent to the studio of Radio Metropole.

Socialist Deputies Meet With Mediator Caputo 30 Mar

FL0204004093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Within the scope of his series of meetings in the country, international mediator Dante Caputo also met with a group of socialist deputies on the morning of 30 March. In a report of what was discussed during that meeting, the socialist deputies say they took the opportunity to remind Caputo that they had always hoped for a solution to the political crisis through negotiations without accepting a solution that could jeopardize the country's independence.

The socialist deputies say it is not too late for all sectors to sit together to discuss the solution they desire to the Haitian crisis. On that score, the deputies have decided to do all they can to facilitate any solutions that can guarantee the interests of all sectors of society and that can allow peace to be restored here in Haiti.

Aristide Supporter Remarks on Meetings With UN/OAS Envoy

FL0104170593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] After the meeting between UN/OAS envoy Dante Caputo and the private sector, we questioned business man Antoine Izmery, known for his position in favor of the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Izmery] He [Caputo] was very clear. I can take my hat off to him. He said if Haiti's case was not solved, their own interests would be at stake. Therefore, it is not just Haitian interests that are being discussed here. He came to discuss the interests of the international community. At least he is frank enough to say so.

Every report he has sent to his superiors has been well done. He might not have the means, however, for everything that he said would be done. Do not forget that he is a mediator. He must report to the U.S. President. The U.S. President cannot change by himself U.S. policy. It is an entire staff, an entire country.

[Rothschild] What should Mr. Caputo have to get the means to do what he should do?

[Izmery] What should he have? He should first have the support of the U.S. Government. There I have my doubts regarding Clinton. [end recording]

UN/OAS Envoy Caputo Departs 31 Mar

FL0104164693 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Dante Caputo left the country following his meeting with the presidents of various employers's associations in the private sector. He should return within the next few days, maybe at the beginning of next week to see whether he can reach an agreement so a procedure and timetable can be established that will permit an end to the Haitian crisis. [passage omitted]

During his meeting with the private sector during the morning of 31 March, Caputo asked the Haitian private sector to cooperate with him in resolving the country's political crisis.

Caputo just concluded a 10-day visit to Haiti. He will return. The UN/OAS international mediator spent two hours talking with officials of the socioprofessional associations. After the meeting, he made a statement to the press. In this statement, he said that the discussions are progressing but that he must accelerate the process, although the job is difficult.

[Begin Caputo recording in progress, in French] ...certainly, very difficult. [Words indistinct] suddenly, but the solution must come as quickly as possible. I feel that the negotiations are moving forward. They are not closed. They are not concluded. We have many things to discuss. We had a very, very positive exchange of ideas. I am sure that we will manage to understand the views of all. At least, it is essential that....[changes thought] (?It will be understood that) the international effort is an effort for all Haitians. [end recording]

The objective is democracy. We must respect the democratic game and all sectors have a role to play so we can effect a solution. This is a statement by Dante Caputo who said that the international community must not fail in Haiti. The mediator told the press that there is not a

negotiation table, that the negotiations are held by sectors, and that the reason is that everyone is afraid. He has then created a new situation. [sentence as heard] The former Argentine foreign affairs minister said the international community is there to help all Haitians.

A spokesman for the private sector stated that this sector asked Caputo to be very cautious and not to hurry too much. They insisted on the necessity for guarantees from the international community to boost the national economy, which has deteriorated.

Socialist Bloc President Cited on Position With Democrats

FL0104231593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The socialist-democratic bloc in the Chamber of Deputies congratulated itself on 31 March for its harmony and coherent behavior throughout the crisis. The president of the socialist bloc, Duly Brutus, who was reporting the various changes within the bloc and its development since the 30 September 1991 coup, is still in favor of a negotiated solution. The socialist group, which met with the press the morning of 31 March, would be favorably disposed if one of its members was chosen prime minister within the framework of a negotiated solution. Ansy-Rose Resignac filed a report:

[Begin Resignac recording] It must be specified that the socialists reserve for themselves a very large range of maneuvers in view of the various turns the development of the crisis might take. If certain legislators favor and others oppose a negotiated return of the ousted president, the legislators from PANPRA [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] and their allies have adopted a rather evasive attitude: the negotiated solution. The socialist-democratic group seems to have drawn this formula from two major tendencies that were identified after the coup d'etat: the partisans of a return without condition and those in favor of new elections; two proposals that were far from allowing a solution to the crisis, in the eyes of Deputy Duly Brutus.

Responding to a journalist's question of whether the socialists were willing to cancel the results of the 18 January elections within the framework of this negotiated solution, the PANPRA legislator defended the position of his group: it was for the purpose of avoiding an institutional vacuum and of preserving the 1987 Constitution that we supported those elections, stated Brutus. The socialist bloc leaves the door wide open, however, to all kinds of concessions. It would even be appropriate for a socialist to become prime minister within the framework of a negotiated solution. [passage omitted]

Brutus also made a point of justifying the support and participation of the current governing team. Regardless of the opinion one might have about this government, one must admit that the negotiations are being held in a different atmosphere, he says. Brutus also specified that the socialists were represented in the consensus government only by two ministers and one state secretary. The socialist-democratic group, which is pleased today at having been the first to respond to the necessity for political blocs in Parliament, claims coherent behavior and certain discipline. We have always reacted as a political bloc, stated Brutus, who was justifying the various positions adopted by this bloc since its formation. Dissidents in the socialist group, which comprises 17 members as opposed to its initial 20, mostly censure it, its opportunism. [end recording]

BPFNCD Condemns Vote Increasing Monetary Ceiling

FL0204013493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The National Front for Change and Democracy parliamentary bloc [BPFNCD] condemns the vote increasing the monetary ceiling. Some FNCD deputies denounced the attitude of their colleagues of the Parliamentary Cohesion bloc for voting for a new law regarding the monetary ceiling. This decision was made very late on the night of 25 to 26 March and therefore has an illicit character, says a note from BPFNCD. The legislators of this formation, who some time ago adopted the empty seat policy, consider that the consequences of this new law will deeply affect the country's economy.

Civilian, 2 Soldiers Arrested for Cocaine Smuggling

FL0204020693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Three people, including one civilian and two military, were arrested in Ile-a-Vache, accused of drug smuggling. Our correspondent in Les Cayes has the following report:

[Begin correspondent recording in Creole] Three people, including one civilian and two military, were detained about 17 days ago, accused of illicit cocaine smuggling. Corporal Jean-Jacques Saramon and soldier Richmar Jean-Daniel, who were stationed at the Ile-a-Vache outpost, possessed a kilo of cocaine, which they said they received from the chief of section. They gave the drug to a civilian named Yves-Marie Valentin who sold the drug for 250 gourdes to someone named Wilner who resides in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]. The captain of the post said that that investigation revealed that the amount of the drug was more than a kilo.

On 24 March, three members of the civilian mission in Les Cayes went to the military barracks and to the court to exert pressure to obtain the release of the prisoners, especially the civilian. The captain says he is wondering why the mission members got involved in a drug case, which is a plague destroying every society. When someone takes drugs, he says, this person is considered to be violating human rights because he is not in control of himself. [passage omitted].

The two soldiers appear to be still in prison. As for rumors that the prisoners were beaten, the civilian, especially, states that he was not beaten. The case is now in court, so a decision can be reached on this matter. Duperval Joseph Frank, in les Cayes for Radio Metropole. [end recording]

President Salinas Addresses PRI National Assembly

PA3103143793 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, while presiding over the closing ceremony of the 16th National Assembly of the PRI in the Aguascalientes theater, called on all Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] members to continue campaign in order to help the nation advance.

President Salinas warned that the PRI could be weakened if new movements with which the party has no communication or affinity are formed.

[Begin Salinas recording] The PRI's strength is not in its dependence on the government but in its ties to the people, to the social bases that support it. [end recording]

President Salinas added:

[Begin recording] That is why we welcome financial reforms and the new organization, which proves that ending dependence does not mean diminishing but invigorating the party with society's strength. [end recording]

He said the PRI has decided to renew the role it plays in the party system and recognizes the difference between being the party in government and the party of the government.

[Begin recording] If the party was to drift away from the rank and file, the bureaucracy would increase and the dependence on the government would be bolstered. Internal reform is now preventing that from happening. [end recording]

He called on all PRI members to involve themselves in the people's daily lives and to practice politics at all times and throughout the nation.

Fernando Ortiz Arana was sworn in as new PRI president before President Salinas, and Jose Luis La Madrid was sworn in as PRI secretary general.

In his first message as PRI national leader, Ortiz Arana said he will not allow political anxieties.

[Begin Ortiz recording] The party's schedules are not defined by other forces, nor are we affected by others' decisions. The PRI has said it and today ratifies it: In accordance with its statutes, the PRI will choose its candidate for the presidential elections at the end of 1993 or in early 1994. [end recording]

He asserted that there is no conflict between the organizations and the citizens who form the PRI.

* SEDESO '100 Cities Program' Described

93CA0082A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 9, 10 Feb 93

[Series of two articles by Evangelina Hernandez]

[9 Feb pp 52, 14]

[Text] The population distribution pattern, which has been characterized by its concentration in the metropolitan zones of Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey, and Puebla, is to be decentralized toward 100 medium-sized cities. To this end, the government has begun implementing its "100 Cities Program," which is designed to draw domestic migration—especially that produced by the opening of trade opportunities—toward "strategically located" urban zones presenting "better characteristics for growth."

The program provides for the regularizing of land use, the creation of reservations, environmental sanitation, restructuring of road systems and public transportation, and restoration of the historical centers of the selected cities. To this end, SEDESO [Secretariat of Social Development] Undersecretariat for Urban Development, in charge of the program, has developed five subprograms, some of which are already under way.

For the regularizing of land use in the 100 cities—more than 45 percent of their area was built on lands that were formerly communal or ejidal properties, and 15 percent of urban land evidences legal and regulatory irregularities—an updating of real estate registers will be instituted and "the municipalities will be encouraged to carry it out."

Also, because, "owing to special interests and speculative practices, 25 percent of the foregoing urban area consists of vacant lots with underutilized infrastructures," a "drive" will be instituted to foster the updating of the various urban development plans and the reform of urban legislation.

"Urban administrative instruments and methods" will also be modernized.

The Land Use and Urban Administration Subprogram provides that if the states and municipalities involved accomplish all of the above under the terms of the Social Development Agreement, "they will be granted investment funds."

According to the "100 Cities Program," which has not been made public yet, the majority of the country's towns presently have road systems that slow down the flow of traffic. In places like Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, and Saltillo, traffic speeds during rush hours average less than 15 kilometers per hour.

Added to the above is the deterioration of public and private transportation units, many of which are, on average, 10 years old. This and the traffic congestion problem "affect the environment and result in a costly consumption of fuel, which in some cases exceeds consumption under normal operating conditions by as much as 50 percent."

Because of this, and to address the needs of the 100 cities, the Road Construction and Transportation Subprogram will restructure the road and public transportation systems "so as to foster economic development, raise production and the level of social well-being, reduce pollution levels, and enable a more rational use of fuels."

To attain this goal, the road infrastructure will be overhauled and, among other things, the public transportation systems's rate schedules will be "adjusted."

The cities near the northern border to which the program will seek to draw the population are: in Baja California: Ensenada, Mexicali, Tecate, and Tijuana; in Coahuila: Ciudad Acuna, Moncola-Frontera, Piedras Negras, and Saltillo; in Chihuahua: Ciudad Juarez, Cuatthemoc, Chihauhua, Delicias, and Parral; in Monterrey: Linares; in Sonora: Aqua Pietra, Ciudad Obregon, Guayamas-Empalme-San Carlos, Hermosillo, Navojoa, Nogales, and San Luis Rio Colorado; and in Tamaulipas: Ciudad Mante, Ciudad Victoria, Matamoros, Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa-Rio Bravo, and Tampico-Madero-Altamira.

Near the southern border, the cities are: in Chiapas: San Cristobal de las Casas, Tapachula, and Tuxtla Gutierrez; in Quintana Roo: Cancun, Cozumel, and Chetumal; in Tabasco: Cardenas, Frontera, and Villa Hermosa; and in Campeche: Campecho and Ciudad del Carmen.

In the Bajio region, the cities are: in Aguascalientes: Aguascalientes-Jesus Maria; in Guanajuato: Celaya, Guanajuato, Irapuato, Leon, Moroleon-Uriangato, Salamanca, and San Miguel de Allende; in Nayarit: Tepic; in Queretaro: Queretaro and San Juan del Rio; and in San Luis Potosi: San Luis Potosi-Sanchez.

In the west, the cities are: in Colima: Colima-Villa Alvarez; in Jalisco: Ciudad Guzman, Lagos de Moreno, and Puerto Vallarta; in Michoacan: Apatzingan, Lazaro Cardenas, Morelia, Patzcuaro, Uruapan, and Zamora-Jacona; and in Sinaloa: Culiacan, Guasave, Los Mochis-Topolobampo, and Mazatlan.

And along the Pacific coast: in Guerrero: Acapulco, Chilpancingo, Iguala, and Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo; and in Oaxaca: Bahias de Huatulco, Oaxaca, Salina Cruz, and Tuxtepec .

Also considered are: in Baja California Sura: Ciudad Constitucion, La Paz, and San Jose del Cabo-Cabo San Lucas; in La Laguna: Torreon-Gomez Palacio-Lerdo; in Durango, Durango; in Hidalgo: Pachuca, Tula-Tepeji, and Tula; in Mexico: Toluca and Valle de Bravo; in Morelos: Cuautla-Oaxtepec and Cuernavaca; in Puebla: Tehuacan; in Veracruz: Coatzacoalcos-Minatitlan, Cordoba-Orizaba, Martinez de la Torre, Poza Rica, Veracruz-Boca del Rio, and Jalapa-Banderilla; in Yucatan: Merida-Progreso and Valladolid; and in Zacatecas: Fresnillo and Zacatecas-Guadalupe.

[10 Feb p 15]

[Text] To create the desired reserved lands in the 100 medium-sized cities to which the migration is to be drawn, a total area equal to the entire urban area of the Mexico City metropolitan zone—or 125,000 hectares—will have to be acquired. Of these, 65 percent belong to peasants, since they are ejidal and communal lands.

Under the "100 Cities Program," these lands would be channeled by way of trusts and/or property developers toward the "creation of housing developments" in the mentioned cities, with the object of "generating a supply of built-up land accessible to the low-income sectors."

In this manner, the Social Development Secretariat plans to generate a supply of 100,000 urbanized lots annually.

Under this project, the owners of ejidal land would become shareholders in these trusts by contributing their land, which would be "valued at market price."

The Urban Land and Reservations Subprogram provides that, depending on the costs of upgrading these lands, part of them will be returned to their original owners "in a proportion equivalent to the commercial value of the total unimproved land contributed without infrastructure." The land thus returned to the peasants can be offered "to private developers for resale. In this way, the owners of ejidos receive cash payment for their land, and the private sector invests in its urbanization and the construction of housing."

The program's documentation points out that this method will assure the peasants that the incorporation of their lands in the urbanization process "will be effected at fair prices and will guarantee their rights, while endeavoring to channel the profits into productive alternatives supported by the Enterprises in Solidarity Program."

It further points out that the improved land will be used to "create housing developments, whose lots will be urbanized with financing by the banks and the private sector." Those who will benefit from these developments will be persons with incomes of up to two and a half times the minimum wage, and will be given the "opportunity to acquire a lot with installed services, on easy terms of payment, with down payments payable in 12 monthly installments."

The program calls for generating a supply of 100,000 urbanized lots annually. It is estimated that 65 percent of the area involved will be devoted to housing developments, with an average yield of 35 lots per hectare.

At this annual rate, the equivalent of 83 percent of the low-income sector demand in the country's 100 cities will be covered during the period 1992-94.

SEDESO considers that the operation and sale should fall within the province of the housing or real estate institutions of the local state governments.

The Environmental Aspects Subprogram is divided into three main rubrics: water-supply treatment, toxic waste management, and decontamination of waterways.

Over the past several years, according to SEDESO's analysis, the quality of the bodies of water in the 100 cities listed has been deteriorating steadily, reflecting a lack of the infrastructure needed to collect and treat sewage. The scant infrastructures built for this purpose are either not maintained or are partially abandoned, because the operating agencies lack sufficient funds to operate and maintain them.

Under the "100 Cities Program," municipal sewage will all be treated, and the infrastructures of sewer and sewage-collection systems will be enlarged "in a process designed to treat 61 percent of all household sewage by 1994, and 100 percent by the year 2000." To this end, participation by private enterprise in the construction and operation of the systems, through concessions or service contracts, will be fostered.

The plan calls for overhauling and supplementing the infrastructures of 38 plants that are currently operating deficiently—these include the Tijuana, Acapulco, Mexicali, and Reynosa plants—and for building 11 stabilization plants and reservoirs. Currently, calls for public tenders have been issued for the construction of 21 additional plants. But under the program, construction must be completed or started on a total of 49.

With respect to solid waste, the program finds that the plants devoted to its treatment "have not operated adequately," for lack of a clear definition of methods for adapting the systems to the waste generated. This is the case of the Zapopan, Oaxaca, Toluca, and Villahermosa plants, which are inoperative and whose investment costs ranged between 1.5 and 10 billion old pesos.

Only 15 of the 100 cities have sanitary landfills. In the others, waste is finally disposed of in unsupervised dumps.

To meet the needs of waste collection and disposal in these other cities, the program considers it "essential" to farm out these services by way of concessions. During the 1992-94 period, priority in this respect has been accorded to 65 cities.

With respect to the decontamination, sediment-removal, and correction of urban waterways, the program's documentation points out that the use of waterways as sewage drains is "common practice." To correct this situation, work was started last year on the decontamination of the following rivers: the Nuevo in Mexicali; the Tres Rios in Culiacan; the Sonora in Hermosillo; the Arroyo Las Vacas in Acuna; and the Bravo in Ciudad Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa, and Matamoros.

For 1993 and 1994, the following rivers have been accorded priority: the Sinaloa in Guasave; the Estero del Infiernillo in Mazatlan; the Cuale in Vallarta; the second stage of the Tijuana; Coatan in Tapachula; the Sacramento in Chihuahua; the Nazas in Torreon; the Lerma in La Piedad and Salamanca; the Chiquito and the Grande in Morelia; and the San Juan in San Juan del Rio.

The last of the five subprograms is that of Urban Renewal of the Historical Centers of Cities. This subprogram "embraces most of the 20,000 historical and artistic monuments in our national patrimony." In this regard, SEDESO will convoke the three levels of government and the private and social sectors to "agree on a strategy comprising three lines of action, directed toward improving the housing situation, protecting and deriving social benefit from our historical and cultural patrimony, and overhauling the public services and infrastructure. Improvement of housing will involve the regularization of tenancy and the "structural rehabilitation of the inner-city slums," among other actions.

The funding of this program—the total cost of which has not been calculated as yet—is distributed as follows: federal funding 29 percent; state and municipal funding 10 percent; loans 39 percent; and private investment 22 percent.

Costa Rica

Poll Shows Decrease in President's Popularity

PA0104154193 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p 4A

[Report by Eduardo Amador H.]

[Text] The latest Multispecialty Development Counselors [CID]-Gallup poll shows President Rafael Angel Calderon's popularity has decreased even though it remains high.

The president reached his highest mark in November 1992, when he received a 25-percent favorable rating. Nevertheless, he has now received a 14-percent endorsement, which represents a nine-point decrease.

The reduction was apparently caused by President Calderon's trip to Europe in January. People criticized the fact he was accompanied by a large delegation, among other things.

President Calderon reached his lowest point in July 1991, when his popularity dropped to minus 23 percent—the lowest percentage ever achieved by a president in 14 years. He began a slow recovery until he reached the highest mark in November 1992: 25 percent.

According to the CID-Gallup poll, 19 percent of the people believe the president's actions have been good or very good and 9 percent stated the opposite. The difference between positive and negative marks results in a positive nine percent margin for Calderon.

Social Christian Unity Party supporters are the ones who praise the president most. Approximately 61 percent of them term his actions as good or very good while 35 percent of the National Liberation Party members term them as bad or very bad. Furthermore, people with the least resources are also quite severe in their assessment of Calderon's work; 36 percent believe it is bad or very bad; yet more educated people—40 percent—praise his work.

According to the people polled, the administration's main achievement has been the issuance of housing bonds. This opinion is shared by 40 percent of the people polled, and this includes most of the people with the lowest resources, meaning with the lowest education level.

Work in the economic sector is also praised by the Costa Ricans. Nevertheless, a smaller number of people believe this has been the most important achievement. Only 6 percent share that opinion.

Most of the people state the high cost of living represents one of the problems the Calderon administration has yet to solve and, consequently, this is where he has fared the worst.

His trips are also criticized. Twelve percent of Costa Ricans believe this has been the president's main problem. They have particularly criticized his trip to Europe and, according to the people who conducted the poll, it caused a decrease in his popularity.

El Salvador

Officers Sentenced for Jesuits' Murder Granted Amnesty

PA0204034893 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Report by Alfredo Villareal in Santa Ana]

[Text] Colonel Guillermo Benavides and Lieutenant Yusi Rene Mendoza, his adjutant, both of whom were accused and sentenced for the Jesuits' murder, have regained their freedom, thanks to the amnesty recently approved by the Legislative Assembly.

The two military officers were released the evening of 1 April, thanks to the amnesty decreed by the government. Col. Benavides and Lt. Yusi Mendoza, his former adjutant, did not give statements when they left Santa Ana Prison, where they had been sent to serve a 30-year sentence. Their lawyers arrived at the prison and described the former military academy director's feelings.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] My client is calm, but I think this type of situation always manages to cause an impact. [end recording]

This has been one of the most difficult cases for the country's judicial system because the legal process was seriously criticized on certain occasions. Dr. Mendez, chief of Benavides' defense team, said he is pleased the release was achieved by chance.

[Begin recording] [Mendez] I feel satisfied. I definitely feel satisfied. The whole team feels satisfied. We have worked hard. The task demanded dedication, long hours, concern, and sacrifices, but we have reached a satisfactory conclusion.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think the amnesty has been fair in their case?

[Mendez] I think that everything....[pauses] the amnesty is not specially granted to a specific person. The amnesty is a general law, which I deem timely given our current situation. [end recording]

The Attorney General's Office was notified about the officers' release this morning. The prosecutor confirmed the officers' criminal responsibility but said they will not appeal the order issued by the Legislative Assembly because it represents another law of the Republic.

Jesuit Rector Views Release

PA0204025593 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The Jesuit priests in El Salvador approve of the release of Colonel Guillermo Benavides and Lieutenant Yusi Rene Mendoza, who were found guilty for the murder of six Jesuit priests in November 1989. Father Rodolfo Cardenal, deputy rector of the Central American University, told YSU that liberty is consistent with the soldiers'

position; nevertheless, he is against the legal mechanism that allowed their liberty. Here is what Father Cardenal said:

[Begin recording] [Cardenal] The release of Col. Benavides and officer Yusi Mendoza is in line with the pardon the Jesuits requested on 16 November 1992. The pardon demanded that they be granted their liberty; their sentences would continue in force, however. Their sentences would continue in force, but they would be granted liberty. Therefore, the fact they were given their liberty now is consistent with that position, with the request we made on 16 November. Nevertheless, we do not agree with the way this mechanism was used; that is, amnesty. In our opinion it was a hasty amnesty and it is a broad amnesty that attempts to avoid the implementation of justice in other cases where justice was absent. We do not agree with the mechanism used; nevertheless, we are pleased they have been granted their liberty, which we had already requested.

[Unidentified reporter] In your opinion, what will be the repercussions on the situation prevailing in El Salvador, as there is an attempt to make judicial reforms and improve the political structure in our nation?

[Cardenal] The message sent to Salvadoran society and to the nation, even to the international community, is contrary to a possible reform of the judicial system. The message is very simple and clear; it means....[pauses] it is being said that in El Salvador you can execute a person, kidnap individuals, commit torture, rob, participate in drug trafficking and nothing will happen to you because of the amnesty, which erases the guilt, erases the sentence, and revokes any legal action that could be enforced. This is the message we are sending to society and to the international community. This is why the international community is quite concerned and is against the way the amnesty was granted.

[Reporter] Will you briefly describe this attitude or this process? The government claims it is fostering reconciliation through the application of this amnesty. Despite the claim of unconstitutionality issued by the opposition parties, President Cristiani and other government official assert this is for the sake of reconciliation.

[Cardenal] I believe it is a bad way to reconcile the nation. The truth is that Cristiani is not attaining reconciliation. He is not attaining reconciliation because he is forgetting the victims. The Truth Commission recorded 22,000 accusations. It can be easily assumed that in every accusation there is more than one victim. The perpetrators are the only ones who are being considered. The perpetrators, responsible for those violations, are the only ones who are being considered and there is an attempt to favor them. Nevertheless, the victims are not considered; they want to forget the victims. It is a reconciliation....[pauses] reconciliation means to join, to unite two parts, nevertheless only one part is being favored; the other part is being forgotten. This is not a true reconciliation. [end recording]

Ex-Deputy Defense Minister 'Willing' To Engage in Politics

PA0204172593 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] General Juan Orlando Zepeda, deputy defense minister until 31 March, said he is willing to engage in politics as any civilian through an organization that could be the National Conciliation Party with a view to the March 1994 elections.

Zepeda mentioned how unwise it is to think of appointing a civilian as defense minister at this time. He said the officers would not accept it because the armed conflict just recently ended. Zepeda hinted, however, at such a possibility in the near future if the president exercises his authority in that regard.

Guatemala

Peace Commission Leader on Progress of Peace Talks

PA0204032293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Peace Commission head Manuel Conde Orellana said on 31 March the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity agreed on a cease-fire. According to a report from Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, the conciliator, some progress was achieved concerning the timetable.

Conde stated the government believes the last round of talks with the guerrilla groups was positive although the conciliator said no relevant progress was achieved, adding this depends on how you see things.

Conde reasserted positive things have occurred based on Msgr. Quezada's report because the issue that has not been overcome refers to the role that will be given to a UN appointed official. The guerrilla groups said the official should join the commission.

He said: The commission believes the UN official should observe the progress achieved in the negotiations and verify implementation of the agreements. If the UN official joins the commission, this would prevent the preparation of a report with impartiality and authority. We are trying to find a conciliatory solution to this issue.

According to the conciliator, no agreement was possible regarding the commission that will document the main human rights violations and the civilian population's suffering throughout the confrontation until a definite peace agreement was signed.

The two sides coincided on the creation of a commission because they consider adequate knowledge about these events or situations will help prevent further violent actions and consolidate the country's democratic process.

Mayors End Occupation of Cathedral; Archbishop Comments

PA0204004793 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] More than 100 mayors from the interior of the Republic on 1 April left the Metropolitan Cathedral, which they occupied since 29 March.

A delegation of mayors met the evening of 31 March with President Jorge Serrano and Archbishop Penados del Barrio to seek a solution to the delayed payment of 8 percent of the budget municipalities are entitled to receive according to the Constitution.

The mayors decided to leave the cathedral the morning of 1 April, even though the government offered to pay them the debt in one month.

Archbishop Penados del Barrio expressed his satisfaction with the way the occupation of the cathedral ended.

[Begin Penados del Barrio recording] The mayors have acted sensibly by peacefully leaving the cathedral, a sacred place, not disrupting Holy Week activities, which are the most solemn moments of our Christian faith. I always recommend using dialogue. Violence or irrational actions never lead to anything positive. We must sit down around a table and listen to each other. Sometimes other actions are taken to get the attention of the authorities. I remember when the Mutual Support Group occupied the cathedral. They used violence because they would not let anyone in and installed their own padlocks. Nothing was achieved. Therefore, again I urge you to continue talking. You can demand respect for your constitutional rights but in a legal way, based on the Constitution and laws. In that manner, your demands will be valid but never through violence. I congratulate you for leaving this sacred place quietly and peacefully. [end recording]

Prosecutor Notes Possible DEA Complicity in Money Theft

PA0104165393 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p 8

[Text] Claudio Porras Rivas, chief prosecutor at the District Attorney's Office [MP], has confirmed that the investigation by the Institute of Criminal Investigations revealed that on 9 December a contingent of the Narcotics Operations Department (DOAN), led by its chief and deputy chief, stopped Restrepo Mujica and the vehicles with Texas license plates JJC-29H and JJC-69K. Inside the vehicles they found two black briefcases containing $1.080 million.

It was learned that they drove only the vehicle with license plate JJC-69K to the DOAN main office. Once they reached the Treasury Police [GH] General Directorate (16th Avenue 14-00, Zone 6), they counted the money, Porras said.

After they did that, it is reported the DOAN division chief kept $1 million and ordered that $80,000 be forwarded to a court. He handed out $60 to each agent who participated in the operation. Several of them did not accept their share of the loot.

In view of this situation, the MP prosecutors were sent to the GH General Directorate. There, the DOAN chief and the GH agents who did not accept the $60 bribe for silence gave their statements.

The implicated DOAN chief said in his statement that two DEA officials witnessed the confiscation of the money. For that reason, the prosecutors feel these officials may be involved in the appropriation of the $1 million.

The inquiry also revealed that those DEA officials, including a Hispanic, pressured the GH's top command into not clarifying the matter, the MP prosecutors said.

Oddly enough, the GH chief, who took over when Lieutenant Colonel Erick Antonio Sandoval resigned after being in office for just two weeks, dismissed the two GH officers who were handling the investigation, Porras said.

In view of the attitude of the new GH chief, the presumption is that he may be implicated in this act of corruption and other illegal actions reported by GH agents, our source stated.

From last October until now, the courts in San Marcos Department have detected over 400 false reports of destruction of poppy and marijuana plantations. It was said the false reports were made because the U.S. Embassy gives agents and chiefs who participate in these operations a reward of $70 for every plantation destroyed.

The MP Prosecutor's Office confirmed that in February of this year alone the San Marcos regional GH chiefs claimed they destroyed 22 plantations but did not name the places where they were supposedly located. It was also stated the aforementioned GH chief ordered all this from the DOAN main offices. The evidence and witnesses were brought before the Third Lower Criminal Court.

The MP official said he believes the U.S. Embassy pays $70 to every agent who participates in the confiscation of any kind of hallucinogenic weeds, but the agents reported only receiving 70 quetzals. Porras said the persons who may have falsely reported the confiscations of poppy and marijuana plantations could be sued for discrediting Guatemala abroad, since our country is considered one of the major producers of hallucinogenic weeds as a result of their actions.

To conclude, the official asked the U.S. Embassy to review with its staff the exercise of effective control over the operations they conduct to back up the GH. After the MP filed charges, twelve GH agents and two chiefs testified before the Third Lower Criminal Court on the matter of the appropriation of the $1 million.

Several of them charged yesterday that they have been coerced and received death threats from the top GH chiefs and someone believed to be an officer to sign a statement asking that the charges be dropped. That situation prompted Porras to ask the judge of the Sixth Lower

Criminal Court to conduct a personal investigation. The judge went to the GH General Directorate where the threatened agents work to begin the investigation.

Honduras

Callejas Responds to Reports of Constitutional Reforms

PA0104214293 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas by reporter Francisco Valeriano Giron on 31 March; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Giron] Widespread reports of constitutional reforms, the reformation of solid articles [articulos petreos] to allow presidential continuation and so forth that have been reported by the media and widely commented on were discussed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas. What is your opinion of all this?

[Callejas] What I said this morning. I believe the news media has moved up 28 December [the date on which he is scheduled to leave office].

[Giron] Should we consider what the news media reports?

[Callejas] If you like playing innocent, yes.

[Giron] Regarding the issue of reforming solid articles, the president of congress says it is not true. You have said the same. Why the insistence on this? Do you maintain your position?

[Callejas] Some laws will have to be reformed.

[Giron] What do you think of the insistence on these reports?

[Callejas] I better not say what I think.

[Giron] Mr. President, is this not part of an opposition campaign to gain advantage?

[Callejas] They unquestionably are taking advantage of you [the reporters]. They are using you and you are allowing it. Therefore, you must know the source of the reports.

[Giron] Who is implementing the tactic of using us?

[Callejas] The individuals who put forth these questions to you, which you know are unfounded. You are more informed than I. You know who fosters these actions, who you are told to ask who these actions are directed against. In my opinion the news media is playing a game it wants to play. You are aware of what is happening; therefore, in my opinion, you are allowing yourselves to be used by certain sectors. Although you know their allegations will not come true, you have insisted on giving these sectors an active role. Since you know these events will not take place, I ask you, why do you continue to discuss the same topic?

[Giron] This issue was initiated by individuals who in one way or another have occasionally been involved in national events, which is why we take them into consideration.

[Callejas] It is a matter of credibility, however. Either you believe me or you believe them. I have said that to my way of thinking there will be no constitutional reforms and you have insisted throughout this year and last year that there will be reforms prior to Holy Week. You want to turn this into a national debate. I ask the news media: Why do you want this issue to be the subject of a national debate?

[Giron] There are insistent reports; there have even been editorials on this issue, which has created expectations.

[Callejas] I believe this is a closed chapter. I would ask you to please not discuss this issue with me any more. I am tired of answering questions resulting from rumors, intrigue, and speculation. We cannot make this issue front-page or fourth-page news or the subject matter of editorials either. I believe we are getting involved in a game; either you, the news media and reporters, want to play or you are being used very intelligently.

[Giron] Does all of this upset you, Mr. President?

[Callejas] No, it does not upset me. It makes me uncomfortable because it makes no sense. There is no reason for this discussion; it is unfounded. We have a constitutional framework. In this country we respect democracy and a legal framework. Why continue insisting on this subject? You talk of the period prior to Holy Week, after Holy Week, a Fujimori-like coup, this or that newspaper editorial, and so forth. I believe you are playing games. Forgive me for saying so, but this is beginning to get ridiculous.

[Giron] President Callejas clearly stated his views. Moreover, he questioned the credibility of the reports and asked several times that no further questions on that be asked. Changing topics, he was asked where he will spend Holy Week.

[Callejas] I will go to the Gulf of Fonseca as I do every year.

[Giron] Will you leave this weekend?

[Callejas] No, because the Honduran team is playing on 4 April and I want to see the game.

[Giron] Your prediction, Mr. President?

[Callejas] Honduras will win two to one; pardon me, two to zero.

Nicaragua

D. Ortega Meets With Guatemalan President

PA0104184693 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Prior to leaving on 31 March for Atlanta, Georgia, where he will meet with former President Jimmy Carter, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra met

with Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias, with whom he discussed two key issues.

One of the issues was the unblocking of U.S. assistance for Nicaragua, and the Guatemalan president promised to support the Nicaraguan Government efforts. Another issue discussed was the topic of the peace negotiations between the Guatemalan guerrillas and the Guatemalan Government.

This visit shows the Sandinist leader's participation in these talks is very important in the effort to attain peace in Guatemala.

Panama

'Mobs' 'Violently' Break Into Legislative Assembly Session 31 Mar

PA0104165193 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 1A

[Article by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] For a second consecutive day, the Legislative Assembly session had to be suspended on 31 March due to the disturbance created by the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] mobs that violently broke into the assembly hall to exert pressure on the legislators so they would approve a general amnesty law.

PRD Legislator Miguel Bush allowed the PRD mobs to enter the hall when he smashed the doors with his bare hands.

"I did it because this is a place that belongs to the people," PRD Legislator Bush said when explaining the reasons for his violent destruction of state property.

Following orders from Assembly President Lucas Zarak, the assembly security guards restricted the entry of persons to the hall following the violent actions that took place on 30 March, which caused the suspension of that session.

The PRD demonstrators entered shouting slogans in favor of approval of the amnesty law and in favor of freedom for the civilians and military from the deposed regime who are imprisoned and charged with murder, human rights violations, and embezzlement.

The demonstrators' violent actions forced the Legislative Assembly leadership to request the help of the National Police riot squad in evicting the PRD activists.

The riot squad did not evict the mobs who remained in the legislative hall for several hours.

Following a lengthy recess, Assembly President Lucas Zarak canceled the 31 March session and said the session would be resumed on the afternoon of 1 April.

Zarak said he canceled the session because the safety of the legislators could not be guaranteed while the demonstrators were in the gallery.

On more than one occasion the assembly leadership warned the demonstrators of the possible use of force should the disorders continue, but everything concluded without major disorder.

Assembly Vice President Roberto Garibaldo said that the legislators will not attend the sessions due to the pressure exerted by minority groups who are demanding amnesty for murderers, thieves, and torturers.

Garibaldo warned the demonstrators that if they want the assembly to discuss the amnesty law, they must arrive in peace and not pressure the legislators with the use of violence.

Endara's Cabinet Ministers Disagree on Amnesty Law

PA0104175793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 1-A

[Report by Juan M. Diaz and Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara's cabinet ministers on 31 March disagreed with the promulgation of a general amnesty law that would pardon approximately 50 civilian and military persons who collaborated with former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is serving a jail sentence.

Vice President Guillermo Ford said he does not agree in the least with the amnesty bill presented by the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), adding that the "band" of thieves and human rights violators must go to court and be prosecuted for their crimes.

Ford warned that he will not be intimidated by the PRD's threats regarding the approval of an amnesty and accused the party of demanding handouts while holding a gun.

Foreign Minister Julio Linares said there should be amnesty only for those individuals charged with political crimes, among whom he included the members of the General State Council that elected presidents and vice presidents after September 1989 and the 510 Corregimiento Representatives who chose Gen. Noriega as head of government.

Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo said the current atmosphere is inadequate for the implementation of a law of this nature, adding that he believes it illegal to pardon individuals who perpetrated common crimes.

Galindo said that a thorough examination of the events and of each case must be conducted to get a true picture of the common and political crimes that were perpetrated. He reiterated that homicides and human rights violations were perpetrated during the dictatorship and they should not go unpunished.

Health Minister Guillermo Rolla Pimentel said that "before amnesty there must be justice." Who will pay for the exiles, land expropriations, and all the abuses that were perpetrated and that to date have not been punished, he said.

Pimentel argued that summary proceedings should be held against individuals charged with common crimes; then an amnesty process could be established for those charged for political crimes. He also criticized the slowness of the legal process which, in his opinion, has hindered the administration of justice in many cases.

Public Works Minister Alfredo Arias, a ranking figure in the Arnulfista Party, said that individuals accused of common crimes, theft, human rights violations, and murders should not be granted amnesty.

First Lady Ana Mae Endara, in a more conciliatory tone, said that amnesty is one of many paths by which to establish national reconciliation, although she said that it should cover only political crimes.

Police Arrest Suspected M-20 Leader

PA0204033093 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Former Major Carlos Saldana, who is also known as Superman and who is suspected to be one of the leaders of the M-20 [20 December Movement], was arrested early on the evening of 1 April. He was arrested near the Ninth Penal Circuit Court where seven former military officers are being tried. He was at a store on 27th Street, between Mexico and Balboa Avenues when he was seen by a National Police officer who immediately confirmed with another police officer that the individual was Saldana, who has been sought for nearly two years. According to police, Saldana is accused of staging terrorist attacks linked to the M-20.

The operation to arrest him was carried out in a very discreet manner. He was taken to the National Police headquarters in Ancon, where he is being interrogated. The police are investigating if he had anything to do with the damage caused to the air conditioning system at the Ninth Penal Court, which had to be repaired so the trial could continue.

Attorney General Sends District Attorney on 'Vacation'

PA0104222693 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 1 Apr p 1-A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Attorney General Jorge Ramon Valdes issued resolutions sending Chiriqui District Attorney Emilio de Leon on vacation and dismissing Roxana Pachard, director of the National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-Related Crimes.

A source from the Attorney General's Office said the resolutions issued on the afternoon of 31 March do not explain the reason for Valdes' decision.

Thus far it is not known who will replace de Leon and Pachard. Both de Leon and Pachard were appointed to their posts by separated Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

It is worth mentioning that District Attorney de Leon traveled to Panama City on 31 March to answer questions by the Drug Affairs Commission on drug investigations carried out in Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro Provinces.

Alvarado [former secretary general for narcotics at the Attorney General's Office] said certain political groups are very interested in exercising outside control of the Attorney General's office.

Argentina

Defense Minister-Designate Views Condor Project

PY0104185093 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1048 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Apr (TELAM)—Defense Minister-Designate Oscar Camilion has said it is necessary to talk with the U.S. Government about the technological elements of the Condor-2 that can be used "for peaceful purposes."

Camilion said in an interview with the morning newspaper LA NACION, that he considers the Condor-2 issue to "apparently" be a "closed issue." He warned, however, that "there are limits in international policy that cannot be overlooked. This is not a time to give what we are not asked to give."

The future minister, who will assume his post on 5 April, told the newspaper that on 30 March he submitted a list of his future assistants for President Menem's approval.

Journalist Vicente Massot will be the military affairs secretary, accountant Federico Etchechoury will be the planning secretary, Horacio Rodriguez Larreta will be the new under secretary for privatizations, and Eduardo De Simone will be the new under secretary for institutional relations.

Camilion designated Jorge Baeza as adviser and Ana Sirchuk de Kessler will remain in her current post of under secretary for reorganization and property operations.

Camilion confirmed that the main issue facing the Armed Forces is defining "a policy that will reconcile them with society and with their raison d'etre."

Camilion pointed out: "This key issue is even reflected in the economic problems they face over maintenance and equipment."

Confirming his stance over the Armed Forces' role in society, Camilion noted: "No state ever received free territory." He viewed the changing geopolitical situations, saying, "we must consider all credible possibilities and modernize the Armed Forces based on these alternatives."

Camilion announced a cut in the Defense Ministry privatization scheme, adding that most privatizations have already been achieved. He added that priorities in the defense sector will be rearranged.

He admitted that the sale of shipyards and military industries has not yet been resolved, but guaranteed that our country's self-sufficiency in the defense sector will be assured.

In conclusion, the future minister again expressed support for Argentine military cooperation abroad, although the country should previously be informed on where and with what objectives troops will be sent.

Army Chief Says Military Undergoing 'Cultural Changes'

PY0104220193 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1633 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Comodoro Rivadavia, 1 Apr (TELAM)—Lieutenant General Martin Balza, Army chief of staff, has been in Comodoro Rivadavia on an inspection visit since yesterday. He said in a news conference that "the force is undergoing irreversible cultural changes."

Lt. Gen. Balza added that "to reorganize and rationalize the force is not merely to deploy its units, which is an instrumental action seeking to achieve something more profound."

Balza also referred to remarks that the Army had no defined mission. He said: "The Army has a perfectly defined mission, similar to that of other armed forces. This mission is to build a suitable ground force, effective in its specific duties but mainly in joint actions, which thus may serve as a dissuasive element to those who plan to go against the nation's interests."

Gen. Balza also talked about the new equipment incorporated into the Army infrastructure. He said that "in 1993 the United States donated 147 jeeps and 20 Mohawk airplanes, and the mechanized units were equipped with very modern satellite navigators."

He added: "We were able to accomplish this with our budget, which is about $120 million." He also said that operational measures are being implemented to make "a more flexible, operational, and dynamic Army. This is not being done by the generals but by the subordinate personnel. Here we are all important. Everyone must do his share and it must be done well for the force's benefit."

Spanish Banks Pardon 50 Percent of Argentine Debt

PY0104023393 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Mar 93 Section 2 p 1

[Excerpt] Spanish banks yesterday agreed to pardon 50 percent of the Argentine Government's debts by agreeing to exchange debt certificates worth $109,410,880.65 for new bonds worth $54.705 million, it was reported in Buenos Aires today.

According to a communique issued in Buenos Aires and released by the Economy Ministry, the debt reduction agreement signed by the Argentine Government and the Spanish banks provides for an interest rate equal to the LIBOR [London interbank offered rate] rate plus 0.8125 percent to be paid every six months over 15 years, with a single amortization in the year 2008.

The official communique states that "in the spring of 1992, the Spanish Government promised Argentine authorities it would promote a program for a reduction of the Argentine public debt owed to Spanish banks."

The program had to offer "a debt conversion scheme that would be compatible with the foundations of the Brady

plan for Argentina, and that also would be similar to the agreement reached with Mexican authorities." [passage omitted]

President Menem Names New Health Minister

PY3103192193 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Alberto Mazza, public health and social action minister-designate, this morning said that the offer by President Carlos Menem to assume the health portfolio was a great honor.

The health secretary said current Health Minister Araoz had sponsored his designation. This will allow him to continue working on programs they have been implementing together.

Mazza said the offer is an honor on two counts: His new position will make him part of the cabinet of President Menem, who is making great changes in the country, and it will allow him to continue current Minister Araoz's serious work in the quest for better health levels.

Mazza, 54, explained that he began working in the field of health as social security doctor. He then worked in social works for over 25 years before participating in teaching and the private activity.

The minister-designate will take over in the next few days, but the date has yet to be established.

Bolivia

Ex-President Disavows Candidate Son, Supports MNR Candidate

PY3103150593 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 24 Mar 93 p B6

[Excerpts] Victor Paz Estenssoro, former president of the Republic and MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] leader for life, has disavowed his son, Ramiro Victor Paz Cerruto and has denied that he placed any conditions on his support for Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, the current MNR presidential candidate. Breaking his silence for the second time since he stepped down in August 1989, the octogenarian leader issued a communique. The full text was published by the FIDES News Agency [ANF]. [passage omitted]

Ramiro Paz Cerruto, Victor Paz Estenssoro's son by his first marriage, has allied himself with MNR dissidents and is a vice presidential candidate for the 9th April Revolutionary Vanguard, which is headed by Carlos Serrate.

In a report disseminated on 19 March by ANF in the city of Sucre, Ramiro Paz Cerruto said he had the approval of his father, former President Victor Paz Estenssoro, to act against the MNR. He said his father supports Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada following an electoral commitment. Because of the disbelief expressed by those who attended the news conference, Paz Cerruto gave them the telephone number of Victor Paz's house, 2-4949, so that the journalists could confirm his remarks.

'First Developing Nation To Eliminate' Private Bank Debt

PY0104142093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1822 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Report by Francisco Roque Bacarreza]

[Text] Hamburg (GDR), 30 Mar (EFE)—Following the explosion of the foreign debt crisis in 1982, Bolivia on 30 March became the first developing nation to eliminate its obligations with the international private banks.

The signing of an agreement between the Committee of Creditor Banks, headed by the Citibank, and Bolivian Planning Minister Samuel Doria Medina, has ended a lengthy process to eliminate $180 million which figured as a delinquent debt.

The negotiations, which began at the end of 1991 with chief negotiator Jorge Crespo, ended today with the private banks agreeing to accept $0.16 on the dollar.

"This is the outcome of a lengthy process," said Crespo. Doria Medina described it as "the end of long nightmare" which prevented private companies from accessing foreign capital.

David Hilton of the New Scotland Bank stressed the "satisfaction" of the 45 creditor banks over the end of the foreign debt.

The repurchase of the debt by Bolivia will be made in three ways: direct purchase at $0.16 on the dollar; participation in investments in the areas of health, education, and environment; and the purchase of 30-year bonds.

Bolivia once again resorted to foreign donations to obtain the funds to repurchase the last portion of its obligations with the international banks. The World Bank, which will act as trustee for the payments to private creditors, on 22 March donated $20.7 million. This was added to contributions of $10.7 by the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, and the United States.

Foreign donations were also used in 1988 when Bolivia reduced its debt to the banks by $355 million. This repurchase allowed some Bolivian politicians to benefit from the $0.11 on the dollar to import luxury automobiles, according to sources questioned by EFE. For this reason, negotiators of the $180 million debt insisted on the investments in health, education, and environment, in addition to the other conditions.

The Bolivian Government has become the guarantor of the debt to the international private banks because the original debtors were unable to meet their obligations, thus the debt became a heavy burden for the weak Bolivian economy.

Because of the delay in paying its debt, in 1981 the military government of Luis Garcia Meza agreed to the implementation of heavy interest rates during negotiations on the

balance and amortization schedule. This decision caused the debt with international private banks to rise.

The debts that were eliminated today were contracted abroad by the state-owned Mining Corporation of Bolivia, the National Smelting Company, and the State Bank, and by companies like the Sucre National Cement Factory and the Sheraton Hotel with the endorsement of the Bolivian Government.

Doria Medina today told EFE that the debt has been deleted from the books of private banks, and that Bolivian state is now the creditor of its Bolivian debtors.

Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, who was the witness of honor of the signing of the agreement, expressed satisfaction to the press over the reduction of the foreign debt.

According to the La Paz Central Bank, the Bolivian debt on 31 December 1992 stood at $3.774 billion although some international organizations claim that the debt amounted to more than $4 billion.

Since August 1989 Bolivia has managed to eliminate $2.007 billion from the private and bilateral debt, according to Bolivian sources.

Citizen Extradited From Ecuador Sent to San Pedro Prison

PY3103165193 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 24 Mar 93 p B2

[Excerpt] La Paz, 23 Mar—Alberto Zalles Cueto, a Bolivian citizen recently extradited from Ecuador, charged with involvement in terrorist actions and other crimes committed by the so-called Nestor Paz Zamora Command (CNPZ), has been sent to the San Pedro Prison in this city on orders of 9th Criminal Trial Judge Antonio Santa Maria who is hearing the case.

After being held incommunicado while testifying before the Interior Ministry intelligence and security organizations, Zalles was placed at the disposal of District Criminal Prosecutor Dr. Jose Nemtala on charges of belonging to the CNPZ group that was involved in industrialist Jorge Lonsdale's kidnapping and murder in December 1990. [passage omitted]

Katarist Liberation Movement Changes Name

PY0204022093 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Editorial Report] La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish, during its regular newscast at 0000 GMT on 2 April, carries a report quoting Fernando Untoja, leader of the Katarist Liberation Movement, MKL, explaining why the movement has changed its name to the Katarist National Movement, MKN. The report quotes Untoja as saying that the change was prompted by an action carried out by the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, MNR.

Marijuana Plantations Reportedly Increasing

PY0104214793 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p B1

[Text] La Paz, 24 Mar—Special Antinarcotics Forces sources reported today that they are "very worried" because drug trafficking activities in Bolivia have "diversified" to other fields.

They said marijuana plantation fields are increasing, especially in the southern departments (Chuquisaca, Tarija, and even in Potosi's valleys) with the purpose of opening trade routes to Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

They said this phenomenon is due to the rainy season in the Amazon region that hinders the manufacturing and trafficking of cocaine.

"To this we must add the repression of cocaine traffickers, an activity that has been considerably reduced. But drug traffickers are earnestly dedicated to producing marijuana for two main reasons: They do not need a lot of chemical precursors and there is a growing demand for this drug. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Several marijuana production camps have been discovered in Chuquisaca and Tarija, while Bolivian drug traffickers have been arrested in the past few weeks with several kilograms of marijuana, especially in Argentina.

Correction on Drug Enforcement Experts Named

WA0104123893

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Six New Drug Enforcement Experts Named," published in the 29 March Latin America DAILY REPORT page 26:

Column one paragraph one, only sentence, make read: ...six new official prosecutors, who are experts on drug issues, were recently designated by.... (rewording for clarity and adding word "prosecutors.")

Brazil

Government Resumes Satellite Project With China

PY0204023093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Apr 93 p 18

[Article by Julio Ottoboni]

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—Brazil has resumed the joint satellite development project with China at an accelerated pace. The agreement was signed in 1988. This report was released yesterday by Marcio Nogueira Barbosa, National Institute of Space Research (INPE) director general. Nogueira Barbosa is only waiting for the resources earmarked for this year, amounting to $20.5 million. The formalization of a new protocol in the beginning of March between the two countries' foreign ministries gave another thrust to the project. The first launch is scheduled for October 1996.

According to the INPE director, the federal government will cooperate in the program's fulfillment. He said President Itamar Franco has accepted the request submitted by Science and Technology Minister Jose Israel Vargas and will supplement the program's current budget, some $13 million, with additional funds amounting to $7.5 million taken from resources obtained from the privatization of state companies.

The other news announced by Nogueira Barbosa is the cooperation of the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer) in the program. "The involvement of Embraer in the production of the satellite structure has been assured," he said. The contract must be signed in 60 days, but Embraer has not yet reported on the amount to be charged for the service. This industry already owns technology in this sector because it is participating in the All-Brazilian Space Mission (MECB), where it manufactures the casing of the SCD [data collection satellite]-1 and SCD-2 satellites.

The program's resumption was possible only after Brazil paid its $2 million debt to the Chinese, a debt contracted in the Rio-92 project. In the last four years the federal government invested only $10 million, delaying very much the timetable established in the initial contract, which provided for launching the first remote sensoring satellite by 1994.

Expenditures—The Sino-Brazilian cooperation program foresees an expenditure of $150 million. Brazil is responsible for 30 percent of that total. Oscar Dias Junior, INPE space engineering and technology manager, stated that the total cost of the agreement for the country amounts to $57 million. Of that total, $45 million will be spent in the development and launching of the satellite, while $12 million will be spent in ground infrastructure, such as data reception and processing stations.

Contracts signed by INPE for the production of satellite parts also will be revived again by this government decision.

Finance Minister Urges 'More Aggressive' Privatization Plan

PY0104025493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 93 p 24

[Text] Brasilia—Finance Minister Eliseu Resende yesterday advocated a more aggressive privatization plan that would even include those strategic industries in the Brazilian economy that have so far been a government monopoly like oil and telecommunications. Resende proposed that the government keep control of the bare minimum of stock necessary to secure a monopoly in state-owned oil and telecommunications companies. If this would be the case, the government would hold only 51 percent of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.] voting stock. That 51 percent, however, represents only approximately 16 percent of those companies' total equity.

During a speech to businessmen at the National Confederation of Industries (CNI), Resende stated: "If we were to have the courage to push ahead with a more aggressive privatization plan, that would spell the end of our proolems, but in order to do so, we must have Congress' endorsement."

Finding himself in dire need of financial resources to pay government officials' salary adjustment, Resende complained that just last year the Treasury spent $3 billion to meet obligations. That concerned collateral loans granted by foreign and Brazilian banks to Brazilian state-owned enterprises and secured by the Brazilian Government's promissory notes. The privatization plan advocated by Resende would have a significant twofold effect on the Treasury: On the one hand it would put an end to government disbursements to meet obligations contracted by state-owned enterprises, and, on the other, the proceeds from the privatization of state-owned enterprises would boost government revenues. Resende regretted that since he took office four weeks ago, his time has been consumed by administering Brazilian debts and performing the gruesome task of balancing government's accounts.

He said: "It is by no means an easy task. We will find a solution to the ailing economy if we overcome the problem of the public debt."

In order to drive his point home, Resende recalled that several countries managed to eliminate their deficit by privatizing state-owned enterprises, including government monopolies. Resende believes Brazil can follow those countries' example.

Military Ministers Mark 1964 Revolution

PY0204002793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—The three military ministers yesterday issued an official note that was read at all military commands, related to the anniversary of the military regime that took power on 31 March 1964. The note, which was signed by Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena, Ivan Serpa, and Lelio Lobo, the ministers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, respectively, refers to the date as "the anniversary of the democratic revolution of 1964." The note also mentions misery in Brazil and the current crisis.

The note says that "the current situation demands more reflection from all Brazilians in the search for solutions to lead the nation to a situation in which all of us would like it to be, a situation in which there will be progress, security, justice, and social peace." The note says that a method for eradicating misery from our country should be designed "democratically and on the basis of a consensus."

Defense—The note adds that political changes in the years prior to 1964 "destabilized Brazilian institutions." "The revolution of 1964, which was born within that society, was the answer to the claims that alerted civil and military leaders, when all the democratic traditions of our people were at stake," the note says. The ministers add that "the period after the revolution gave Brazil the harmony and

tranquillity that were essential for immediate industrial, technological, and cultural development, which were coupled with significant economic growth, thus proving the success of the adopted measures."

The note concludes by saying that only with "effort, work, and dedication by all segments of society" will it be possible to build "a better country for our children. We will have to pass through difficult paths in order to win an outstanding place within the international community."

Ex-Military President's Brother Says Dictatorship 'Best'

PY3103233293 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Mar 93 Section 1 p 10

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Reserve General Euclydes Figueiredo, 74, the former ESG (War College) commander, said yesterday that "a dictatorship would be the best type of government" for resolving Brazilian problems. Euclydes Figueiredo is a brother of former President Joao Figueiredo, the last military officer who governed the country.

Euclydes Figueiredo attended a debate on the plebiscite at the Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] building. He said he is undecided on the plebiscite because "theory is different from practice."

He said that in a dictatorship, "the chief of state can make rapid decisions and he has the power to implement them. In a democracy, a consensus should be found, and the chief of state has no power for either making a decision or implementing it."

"We, soldiers, are authoritarian by nature. We learn to make decisions without consulting anyone. Whoever fails to obey orders is jailed," he said. Asked whether misery did not actually spread during the military regime, he replied that "Brazil made progress."

Figueiredo said the possibility of a coup has been "totally ruled out."

Gasoline Price Deregulation Announced

PY0104023993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 93 p 21

[Text] Brasilia—Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero yesterday announced the deregulation of gasoline prices at gas stations. The decision may be implemented along with the next readjustment next week, depending on agreements between Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and the ministries of Finance and Mines and Energy. The only condition for implementation of deregulation is to establish a method for collecting the ICMS [merchandise and service distribution tax], the PIS [social integration program], and the Finsocial [Social Investment Fund].

Cicero made the announcement to some 600 gas station owners who met in Brasilia to protest the differences in the profit margin, ranging from 50 and 89.54 percent, depending on the state. The minister said that if no agreement is reached with the Finance Ministry, the profit difference will be compensated for in two installments. The elimination of the difference will mean a readjustment of 3.5 to 5 percent for consumers.

National Fuels Department (DNC) Director Marcelo Guimaraes Melo, who in the morning heard gas station owners' threats of a lockout, said that "our priority is to deregulate prices."

Fuel price deregulation, which will begin at fuel supply units, will put an end to the policy of maximum prices, which currently are established by the DNC. Gas station owners will, as of now, freely set prices based on operational costs, including the cost of transportation from gas supply units to gas stations.

Finance Ministry technicians, however, fear an explosion in prices after the deregulation, something that has been ruled out by the DNC director, who bases his thesis on the discounts gas stations are now offering. According to DNC studies, prices may even drop.

Chile

Three Under Secretaries Tender Resignations

PY0204143493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Three under secretaries are leaving their posts to run for congressional seats in the upcoming elections. Enrique Correa, the minister secretary general of government, reported that they are Aviation Under Secretary [title as heard] Mario Fernandez, National Resources Under Secretary Pia Figueroa, and Education Under Secretary Raul Allard.

He added that President Aylwin will consider the resignation of Allard within the next few days following a petition by Education Minister Jorge Arrate who assessed Allard as indispensable for the completion of some tasks. [passage omitted]

The names of the new under secretaries will be announced within the next few days. Concerning these and other provincial government officials who will reportedly resign, Minister Correa pointed out that these cases are being discussed individually. He denied that Ricardo Solari, the under secretary for the Secretariat General of the Presidency, will run for a congressional seat. Thus, Correa ruled out the possibility of Solari tendering his resignation.

Education Under Secretary on Resignation

PY0104201193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Education Under Secretary Raul Allard has submitted his resignation so that he can launch his precandidacy for the post of deputy for a district of the 5th Region. He reported this when he made public his letter of resignation to President Patricio Aylwin.

[Begin Allard recording] I resigned to launch my precandidacy for District 14 during the Christian Democratic

Party internal elections. District 14 is in Valparaiso, specifically in Vina del Mar, where I lived, studied, and began my academic activities. I was rector of the Catholic University of Valparaiso. [end recording]

Allard voiced satisfaction and thanked the president for his confidence. He stated that his resignation will be effective as of 15 April.

Finance Minister Returns From Trip to Europe, U.S.

PY0104215393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Report by Carlos Humberto Silva]

[Text] Visibly tired, Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley returned to Santiago from Spain. He had attended the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, annual meeting held in Germany and made a short visit to the United States.

Foxley is scheduled to meet the labor minister in the next few days to begin contacts with businessmen and the United Labor Confederation. It is expected that the tripartite dialogue between the government, workers, and the private sector will be resumed in order to reach an agreement on the current minimum salary, which is 38,600 pesos, and the salary readjustment for this year.

Despite having arrived very early at Pudahuel airport, he looked happy and relaxed because of the special treatment he received from the international press in Hamburg, Germany. The press described him as the man who helped Chile grew at a 10.4 percent rate last year. According to the German press, Foxley was the most wanted, invited, listened to, and applauded person. The IDB, in turn, reported that Chile had the best economic performance in the region because it continued managing a consistent economic policy following the reforms developed by the military regime.

As for the political situation, Foxley said he was calm about the future after the agreement reached by the coalition of parties on a single candidate. He assured that the future government will obtain favorable results because the current political system will continue to prevail.

Foxley will accompany President Aylwin in his tour of northern countries and Russia on 22 May. Foxley was invited to visit Germany in October.

Foreign Minister Meets With Venezuelan Counterpart

PY0204005593 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa said today during a meeting with his Chilean counterpart, Enrique Silva Cimma, that permanent interests link the people of Chile and Venezuela.

Ochoa recalled that the last time a Venezuelan foreign minister paid a visit to Chile was 20 years ago. Ochoa added that political circumstances temporarily separated us, and emphasized the importance that the agreements and the joint declaration to be signed tomorrow will have on bilateral links:

[Begin Ochoa recording] The talks were held in complete harmony. This is not surprising because the Chilean and Venezuelan Governments and peoples have similarities, not only in their government policies but also in their international objectives. That is why we have clear points of view. The agreements are quite promising. We are sure they will strengthen trade and create jobs and well-being for our countries. [end recording]

Regarding regional problems, Ochoa mentioned the defense of democracy, the struggle against drug trafficking, and the free access to international markets. He said this task requires continuous and frank dialogue to strengthen political and economic ties. Regarding Venezuela's internal situation, Ochoa said:

[Begin recording] The economic situation is not difficult. It continues to have an important growth rate. What prevails is a complicated political situation that I am sure we will solve in the next elections. [end recording]

Ochoa also praised the full readmission of Chile into the international community. He said: We are proud that a mechanism of consultation and political coordination was reinstated with Venezuela.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

PY0104132493 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Chilean Government is making every effort to further Latin American integration. To this effect, meetings were held with Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who has come to Chile on an official visit. Notwithstanding a certain rapport and the signing of some agreements, no bilateral trade agreement was signed.

Brazil is currently torn by a political crisis that has revealed shocking levels of corruption which culminated in the removal of the democratically elected president from office, and by an economic crisis characterized by incontrolable inflation.

Cardoso said he believes corrupt practices have not impaired the democratic system. Carmen Castro now reports from the Foreign Ministry:

[Begin recording] [Castro] Minister Cardoso, do you believe democratic systems are threatened or have become vulnerable as a result of corrupt practices?

[Cardoso] No, I do not believe they are more vulnerable now than in the past, when they were the easy prey of military coups or certain warlords. There are remedies for corrupt practices. They can be seen worldwide. For instance, they are battling against corruption in Italy. The same holds true in other countries. Thus, if we want to stamp out corruption and that goal is uppermost in our

mind, we will do so. We will be tough on corrupt officials who will end up in jail, and this will enable us to safeguard democracy.

[Castro] Given the runaway inflation in Brazil and the difficult economic situation, do you see a way out?

[Cardoso] The situation facing Brazil is curious because the country's economy is sound and growing. Last year our exports totaled $36 billion and we estimate that this year's exports will amount to $40 billion. Our reserves currently stand at $20-25 billion. Our gross domestic product amounts to $420 billion, and if we were to include the informal sector, that figure would reach nearly $500 billion. [end recording]

Cardoso concluded that the country's economy is developing in spite of inflation, in spite of the impeachment.

Colombia

'Considerable Number' of Italians Said Involved in Drug Trafficking

PA0104025893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Report by Azucena Lievano]

[Text] The new routes used by traffickers to ship drugs to the United States and Europe have been strengthened by international mafia connections. According to information from Interpol and the Administrative Department of Security [DAS], a considerable number of Italians have arrived recently in Colombia. They are involved in drug-trafficking activities. Some of them have been arrested and extradited to their country.

[Begin DAS Director Fernando Brito recording] They have been strengthening the Colombian-Italian networks. We believe they have also consolidated certain Italian-Venezuelan networks. Maybe that is why more Italians have arrived recently in the country. [end recording]

Various operations carried out between DAS officials and the Italian authorities, including Operations Circeo and Viterbo, have resulted in the dismantling of important networks, including Romeo Boreoli's network, which handled the Italian market from Europe.

The results of an operation that resulted in the arrest of five persons was recently revealed.

[Begin Brito recording] They initially appeared with documents that identified them as Colombian citizens. Their Colombian identification cards were not forged; they were the real thing. [end recording]

DAS officials and Italian authorities will continue their operations. They now want to dismantle a network led by two important Italian drug traffickers.

[Begin Brito recording] We are looking for two Italian citizens who might play an important role in the drug-trafficking network. [end recording]

The latest arrests confirmed the Italians' criminal activities. Adami Paolo claimed he was a businessman. He was expelled on 26 January. Paolo was extradited to his country on 23 March. The status of Guiseppe Garofalo, arrested two days ago in Magdalena, has yet to be established. He is sought by the Italian authorities in connection with drug-trafficking activities.

Escobar Said Responsible for Killing of Informant's Brother

PA3103220093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Lisandro Ospina Baraya, grandson of former President Mariano Ospina Perez, was killed on 31 March in Santa Fe de Bogota. He apparently was paying for the actions of his brother Rodolfo, who went from being an alleged Escobar associate to one of his worst enemies.

Lisandro Ospina Baraya became involved in this situation after his brother Rodolfo Ospina Baraya, who was apparently a partner of Pablo Escobar, reported certain illicit activities of the Medellin cartel chief to Colombian and U.S. authorities.

Following the death of the Moncada and Galeano families in La Catedral, Rofolfo Ospina decided to surrender to justice. To resolve his juridical situation, he became an informant against Pablo Escobar. Escobar kidnapped the younger brother of Rodolfo Ospina, Lisandro Ospina, on 18 December 1992, to stop Rodolfo from making further revelations against him.

Escobar conditioned the release of Lisandro Ospina. To release him, Escobar demanded: one, to trade Lisandro Ospina for Rodolfo Ospina; two, that some land be registered in his name; and three, that Rodolfo Ospina recant all the accusations against him.

On several occasions, Rodolfo Ospina has been connected to the Persecuted by Pablo Escobar organization. Authorities believe this incident may represent the end of a truce by this terrorist group, which is fighting Escobar.

The Ospina Baraya family has been a target of the hired assassins of the Medellin cartel chief several times. The family is somewhere in the United States.

Colombians React To Coffee Pact Failure in London

PA0104170093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Another calamity has hit Colombian coffee: The world pact between producers and consumers died on 31 March; coffee prices have dropped on the international market; there is a state of distress in the coffee areas; and it is believed a difficult-to-handle social situation will emerge. Raul Gutierrez reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] According to coffee producers, the failure to secure a new coffee pact will have a worse effect on this sector than the coffee rust and the coffee stalk borer together. Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos said in Santa Fe de Bogota,

however, that Colombia has the means to prevail in the free market because of the fine quality of its coffee.

[Santos] Colombia has good possibilities in the free market. We have made this evident in the past two years.

[Gutierrez] Santos did not venture to blame the United States, whose heart was on Colombia's side but whose head sided with coffee roasters and consumers, for the failure to reach the pact.

[Santos] This failure does not at all change the current situation. We had been working for a coffee pact as a mechanism to immediately recover international prices.

[Gutierrez] This has been a bitter experience for both foreign trade and coffee farming in the country. The readjustment in the domestic price of coffee will be minimal and there will be fewer jobs, and less income, and, without a doubt, social problems in the so-called coffee region will increase.

[Coffee producer Otto Dreus] Coffee producers will have new opportunities. We are having problems with the stalk borer. We have to learn how to control it. This costs money, but we have to make efforts to pull forward.

[Gutierrez] A protest by coffee producers from Gran Caldas culminated on 31 March in front of the Congress. In Congress where some decisions will be adopted to ease a situation that is affecting more than 350,000 persons who depend on coffee for their livelihood. Senator Rodrigo Marin has already proposed tagging imports with a tax.

[Marin] This is a matter of basic justice. If that sector, if that grain—coffee—has helped the economy in the past, now other sectors of the economy must help it to avoid a crisis that could produce grave social unrest.

[Gutierrez] The government has issued a communique noting there will be a new coffee policy. [end recording]

Explosion Kills One, Injures Two in Cartagena

PA0204031093 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0249 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] One man was killed and two people were injured as a result of an attack with explosives in a building in Cartagena de Indias. The explosion occurred at the Seguros Bolivar building in Bocagrande neighborhood, an important tourist sector of that city located on the country's Caribbean coast.

The explosion killed Humberto Diaz, 28, and seriously injured two people who were near the site of the explosion.

No organization has claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities believe it was a terrorist action by either guerrillas or drug traffickers. At least 20 offices were damaged. The police cordoned off the area and are searching for those responsible for the action.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Denies Rumors of Cabinet Reshuffle

PY0204025993 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Excerpt] President Andres Rodriguez today dismissed rumors about an imminent cabinet reshuffle that would entail the replacement of three ministers. He said there will be absolutely no changes in his cabinet.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] ....industry of fantasies. No, those are rumors, just rumors.

[Unidentified reporter] So, there will be no changes in your cabinet.

[Rodriguez] There will be absolutely no changes.

[Reporter] Do you believe your ministers are comfortable working with you?

[Rodriguez] Frankly, I cannot complain about any of my aides. They are working in perfect coordination with me. They are working with great enthusiasm and showing their spirit of cooperation with their boss. I am fully satisfied with the work of each of my aides.

[Reporter] Are all of them going to complete your term with you?

[Rodriguez] God willing, they will. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Presidential Candidates Unite To Criticize Colorado Leader

PY0104224493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] Presidential candidates Domingo Laino, Guillermo Caballero Vargas, Leandro Prieto Yegros, Joel Atilio Cazal, Eduardo Arce, Abraham Zapag, and Ricardo Canese have signed a document in which they promise to report the president of the ANR [National Republican Association-Colorado Party], Blas N. Riquelme, to the electoral prosecutor and the prosecutor general of the Republic for his controversial remarks that the Colorado Party will engage in fraud during the 9 May elections. The presidential hopefuls also will ask President Andres Rodriguez for guarantees that the democratic process will not be disrupted.

By the initiative of the presidential candidate for the Democratic and Social Coalition [CDS], Ricardo Canese, the opposition presidential hopefuls participated in a news conference in the hall of an Asuncion hotel, to which ANR presidential candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy also was invited. However, Wasmosy did not attend the event and did not send a representative, in addition to not acknowledging receipt of the invitation.

Present at the meeting were National Alliance candidate Abraham Zapag; Progressive Social Movement candidate Leandro Prieto Yegros; National Encounter vice presidential candidate Maria Victoria Brusquetti; PLRA

[Authentic Radical Liberal Party] candidate Domingo Laino; Broad National Participation Movement candidate Joel Atilio Cazal; the Unity of Workers and the People Alliance candidate, Eduardo Arce Schaerer; and the event's host, Ricardo Canese.

At the end of the meeting held behind closed doors, engineer Ricardo Canese read the document in which the presidential hopefuls promise to implement three main points. The document's text reads as follows: "Those who sign below state, first: their strongest repudiation of the attempts to change the people's will that will be expressed in the 9 May elections, and demand real guarantees from the executive branch for the transparency of the elections.

Second: to submit a denunciation and ask for the immediate intervention of the electoral prosecutor and the prosecutor general of the Republic to file suit against Blas N. Riquelme and his accomplices because of the serious violation of the Constitution and the electoral laws through his remarks, and third: to call on the citizenry to stage public rallies in defense of democratic liberties and against electoral fraud."

Each candidate expressed his opinion beforehand on the remarks made by the ANR president. All agreed that the Colorado Party president's remarks and his later ratification represent a certain and serious threat to the democratic transition process the country is experiencing.

Candidate Wasmosy Criticizes Government Economic Program

PY0104220993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] During a meeting with members of the Jewish community living in Paraguay, Colorado Party presidential candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy criticized the government's performance in the social-economic field and said the executive branch has no political, economic, financial, or currency exchange program. He said it has nothing. "We are always quenching fires and waiting to see what will happen tomorrow," Wasmosy said. He compared the sports gymnasiums built by the DIBEN [Directorate for Social Welfare and Assistance] to large monuments that are hard to keep clean and are only good to raise frogs in.

In the meeting last night at Marcos Ismachowiez' home, Wasmosy presented his economic program's highlights to representatives of the Jewish community living in Paraguay.

He began by discussing productivity and the government's role. He explained that his economic program is divided into two parts: one for the public sector and the other for the private sector. He said underdevelopment is the country's worst enemy, and added that things must be organized in an expanded manner.

Wasmosy said values are inverted in our country, and added that "he who steals is deemed smart and he who is honest is deemed stupid." He commented on the military, and said that "even the Armed Forces sector is convinced that captains must be sent to the border posts to get extra money and be able to build their homes and purchase their cars." At this moment, when he realized there were journalists in the room, he laughed and said: "Good Lord, I'm ruined."

He then commented on integration, and said the large countries that are Mercosur [Common Market of the South] members have no integration spirit. He added that there are no clear integration rules and the [Paraguayan] Government is not aware of the meaning of an integration process.

"The Mercosur Treaty was signed two years ago in the belief that it was a friendship treaty. We have not trained our people nor public employees. We have not coordinated macroeconomic policies. We have been acting in isolation, each country on its own," he said.

He proposed reforming and expanding social programs, and said that "in an attempt to create beautiful things for the people, new Yacht and Golf Club branches are being built at sites where the people do not even have money to pay the taxes collected on electrical energy." He criticized DIBEN's work and said: "These sports gymnasiums have cost 2 billion to 3 billion guaranies."

He added that these gymnasiums are huge monuments that can hardly be kept clean, "the swimming pool filters do not work, and the swimming pools thus become frog-raising farms. We are giving the people something they do not have the means to finance or maintain while there are so many urgent social problems to be solved."

Concluding, he said the country must have economic stability and that without political stability there can be no economic stability. "It is sad to say it but, currently, the government has no political, economic, financial, or currency exchange program. It has nothing. We are always quenching fires and waiting to see what will happen tomorrow."

Splinter in Ruling Party Ticket Reported

PY0104203893 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Confirming their serious disagreements with mid-level Wasmosy leaders, Renewal Command [Comando Renovador] members Samuel Ramirez, Artemio Castillo, Alberto Alderete, Nicanor Duarte Frutos, Rafael Jacobo, Cristina Munoz, and Jose Luis Ibarra Llano, among others, have actually separated themselves from the Wasmosy-Seifart presidential ticket's electoral command. After reviewing the party's situation, they decided to detach themselves from the ticket's main activities and agreed to support the party's candidates on their own vis-a-vis their exclusion by the Wasmosy campaign leaders.

In this regard, a few days ago Duarte Frutos and other Renewal Command members successively met with Caaguazu Department grass-roots groups, urging them to support the official ticket without omitting, however, serious criticism of [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy's inner circle for its political inefficiency, a fact that, according to the

Seifarists, represents a serious obstacle to enhancing the ruling party's chances in the 9 May elections.

Chamber of Deputies Approves Electoral Reform Bill

PY3103191693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies yesterday approved, by 34 votes to 28, a bill that changes Electoral Code provisions. Among other things, the bill increases from three to five the number of ballot table members and establishes that it is mandatory for overseers and poll watchers of the tickets that will run in the 9 May elections to be registered on the voters lists of the appropriate electoral district.

The bill was studied by the Constitutional Affairs Committee, a supporting body, which recommended—by a majority—the approval of the bill.

[Colorado Party Vice Presidential hopeful] Angel Roberto Seifart, the advisory committee's chairman, argued the need to change six points in the Electoral Code. He said the participation of the various tickets at the ballot tables will be improved by increasing the number of ballot table members.

Concerning the requirement for the registration of poll watchers and overseers in the appropriate electoral district, the speaker for the majority noted that this requirement will hinder the fraudulent speculations that led to regrettable experiences in past elections. The legislator pointed out: "The local electoral boards will authorize the overseers and thus be able to check their registration on the voters lists of the appropriate electoral district."

The legislator added that it is never too late to improve the participation, control, and supervision of the parties and candidates to form the ballot tables. He noted: "It is never too late to prevent and hinder the possibility of fraud through the inclusion of voters who are not even registered on the voters lists under the pretense of being ballot table overseers and supervisors.

The minority, which recommended the rejection of the bill, was represented by Deputy Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin. The latter stressed that it is too late to change the rules of the game. He added that the bill, instead of simplifying and guaranteeing the electoral process, complicates it and exaggeratedly and unnecessarily bureaucratizes it. The PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] legislator noted: "This bill concentrates political party predominance and control in the electoral process. It does not make an honest contribution to the electoral process."

During a two-hour debate, Colorado Party deputies from both the "Wasmosy" and the "opposition" factions supported the bill while the PLRA deputies opposed it.

In the end, 34 deputies voted for the bill and 28 deputies voted against it. In addition to the opposition deputies, five Colorado Party deputies from the faction of [Luis Maria] Argana voted against the bill.

After the tally was announced, PLRA bloc leader Adalberto Mongelos announced that the PLRA was walking out of the session as a sign of total disagreement with the points approved. PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party] and PLR [Radical Liberal Party] deputies also walked out. Notwithstanding, the Argana faction deputies remained in the Chamber of Deputies session room, thus allowing detailed discussion of the bill, which was finally approved. Now it is the Senate's turn to pass judgment on this controversial bill.

Disqualified Candidates To Appeal to Tribunal

PY0104222293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] All opposition political organizations whose candidates were disqualified by the Central Electoral Board [JEC] yesterday held meetings in their respective headquarters and decided to appeal the JEC decision before the Asuncion electoral tribunal. The National Encounter, whose candidates were severely affected by the JEC decision, criticized the criteria used for "eliminating opposition candidates from the contest."

The JEC disqualified the candidacy of Leandro Prieto Yegros, the Social Progressive Movement's leader. Prieto Yegros issued a communique saying that he will continue to work all over the country because he is sure the JEC decision will be canceled. Benita Resquin de Melzer, the representative of Prieto Yegros' movement, had said its candidate might be disqualified, not for legal but for political reasons.

Broad National Participation Movement candidate Joal Atilio Cazal, who also was disqualified, issued a communique stating that the JEC resolution disqualifying the movement's candidates "clearly proves the antidemocratic position of the pro-Wasmosy Colorado Party Executive Board."

Names Will Appear on Ballots

The JEC will wait four more days before starting to print ballots, which also will bear the names of disqualified candidates, although they will be subject to the result of their appeals. If the resolutions are not lifted, disqualified candidates will not participate in the election.

Argentine Coast Guard Seizes Paraguayan Fishing Boats

PY0104212993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 40

[Excerpt] Adding to the numerous Argentine actions against Paraguayans, it was learned early yesterday morning that Argentine Coast Guard members have captured six Paraguayan fishing boats.

The small boats were fishing on the Paraguay River when the Argentine Coast Guard boats captured them and seized 15 rigging sets and fishing nets, in addition to 200 kg of fish.

The event occurred right at the Bermejo River's mouth along Neembucu Department's riverbanks. It has been

reported that the fishermen had to abandon their boats to avoid being arrested by the Argentine Coast Guard members. [passage omitted]

Peru

Fujimori Remarks on Quencoro Prison Escape, Hamburg IDB Meeting

PA0104165293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has said the escape of terrorists from the Quencoro, Cuzco prison was due to police carelessness but does not represent a failure of the organization. Most of the escapees have already been recaptured by the Army. The president also referred to other important subjects.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Apparently there was a certain carelessness on that particular day that allowed the criminals to escape. As you know, however, policemen have been fighting terrorism on several fronts. Consequently, this was not an organizational failure but, let us say, a chance oversight. Prison construction has not kept up with nor could it keep pace with the capture of numerous Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement terrorists. Prisons started to overflow with terrorists virtually overnight. In addition, maximum security cells were being built. Prison security is expected to be at its maximum within the first six months of this year. As for the fugitives, they are being sought after diligently. All of them will eventually be recaptured.

[Unidentified reporter] Cable dispatches have reported that Peru failed to obtain everything it wanted in Hamburg due to a lack of coordination with other countries' delegates. What really happened? Did Minister Camet succeed in having part of the debt written off or at least renegotiated?

[Fujimori] The main purpose of the Hamburg meeting was to hold a forum for IDB directors to express the bank's stand. The idea was not to renegotiate or write off any debts or portions of debts. The government and I, in particular, have something to say, however. If we are going to assume responsibility for such a big debt, we must make sure the money will be utilized in the best possible way. Of the $68 million lent by IDB, approximately $11 million is for preinvestment projects and $12 million is for institutional improvement. [end recording]

CCD Gives President Power To Dissolve Congress

PA0104195493 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1812 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Interview with Congresswoman Lourdes Flores Nano by Eduardo Lindo Collantes at the Democratic Constituent Congress in Lima—live]

[Text] [Lindo] In an event-filled session, the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] Constitution Commission a few moments ago approved the conditions whereby the president of the Republic can dissolve congress. The six-article bill presented by Renewal Movement Congressman Enrique Chirinos Soto was supported by the Change 90/New Majority Movement Coalition.

The first two articles state that in case of a serious controversy between the executive and legislative branches that could threaten the country's political stability, the president of the Republic, to allow the people to settle the controversy, will be able to reach an agreement with the Council of Ministers only once during his mandate to dissolve Congress in accordance with the requirements and within the limitations established by this constitution.

The next article points out that the dissolution decree will contain a summons for the election of a new congress, which must take place within four months after the date of congress' dissolution without altering the preexisting electoral system. I will discuss this issue with Popular Christian Party Congresswoman Lourdes Flores Nano. What comments do you have on this approval?

[Flores] Good afternoon. What the majority has really done, although it has observed certain limits established by Dr. Enrique Chirinos in the bill, is to authorize a form of dissolution without a cause. The president of the Republic will be able to dissolve congress once in the five years of his term between the 24th month or, in other words, when he has fulfilled his second year and the 30th month or the middle of the third year, when there should be a rotation. He can do this for any reason he deems a serious crisis.

I disagree with the proposal. I preferred the minority's proposal that required objective causes such as two cabinets censured, five ministers censured; in other words, a dissolution based on specific facts, not a vague and generic serious crisis.

Dr. Chirinos' original proposal also contained the method used in the Spanish constitution, which is much more intelligent. If the president plays such a risky card, his own post must also be at stake. That would make the president consider the scope of the measure. At present, as I said, the person whose position is at stake is the president of the Council of Ministers, who in the Peruvian system is not a head of government as in other constitutions. I maintain that presidents are not particularly careful with their ministers. Politicians being as they are, even those who do not describe themselves as politicians, allow others to get burned. I believe we are giving the president of the Republic excessive powers, and I voted against the proposal. I do not believe it guarantees a balance of powers.

[Lindo] The new constitution should be approved after July. What awaits the country under the new article that was just approved by the Constitution Commission?

[Flores] That is another issue. (?We have not discussed) how the law will be used. I believe that strictly speaking, all of these mechanisms should be fully implemented when a new president is elected. That is one of the temporary arrangements we will discuss. Will the current government elected under a constitutional mandate with certain powers have, as of July, the new powers stated in this

constitution? From my point of view, which I will maintain when the time comes, that should not be. The new powers should be implemented with the new president elected under new constitutional rules. Of course, I would not be surprised if the majority wants Engineer Fujimori to make use of all the good things that his majority is authorizing him to do in this constitution.

Opposition Reacts To Announcement of Presidential Powers

PA0104022993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0559 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Lima, 31 Mar (EFE)—The political opposition in Peru has rejected the "excessive powers" that the ruling party majority at the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] granted to President Alberto Fujimori by way of two draft articles of the new Constitution. Opposition leaders have convened a forum "to defend democracy and the balance of power."

Congressmen of the ruling Change 90 party and its ally New Majority (NM), agreed on 29 March to grant the Executive Branch the constitutional right to dissolve the CCD when there is an "unsurpassable conflict" between the two branches.

Congressman Henry Pease, of the opposition Democratic Left Movement (MDI), a radical left-wing party, said that future governments may use the prerogative to "blackmail" the Legislative Branch by threatening dissolution.

Opposition Congresswoman Lourdes Flores, of the Popular Christian Party (PPC), a conservative group, said that "the approved draft grants excessive powers to the Executive Branch and weakens the CCD, which clearly means institutional imbalance."

Flores recalled that there are other draft articles that establish the three-part renewal of the CCD and mandate repeal for its legislators. This, she pointed out, "implies continuous instability for the lawmakers."

Former Foreign Minister Carlos Torres, president of the Constitution Commission and majority speaker, said that Peru's history "makes it necessary for to have this power to dissolve, because the lack of a law of this type always led such power conflicts to a coup d'etat."

"This is a legal method that already exists in countries with developed democracies. It will be accompanied by the obligation to call elections immediately, which will allow the people to reelect the legislators if they in fact disagree with the government's policies."

Regarding the three-part renewal process for the CCD and the mandate repeal, Torres said that "now the people may send those who do not work home and award those who do, by confirming them in their posts," he explained.

During the week of 22 March, the ruling majority at the CCD reaffirmed its decision to draft a constitutional provision that would allow the immediate reelection of the president, which is not included in the current Constitution. The idea has been rejected by the political opposition.

Opposition spokespersons have said that the idea of reelection is directed at keeping Alberto Fujimori in power.

According to political sources, Fujimori will call a referendum in July 93 to approve the new Constitution and will then call general elections, which he expects to win if he can hold his popularity status of 65 to 70 percent, according to recent polls.

Fujimori stated that "what bothers some is the government's popularity." He pointed out that "they would not be so worried if reelection were approved during an unpopular government, one that had no chance of getting the support of the people's vote again."

Fujimori's opposition, which brings the so-called traditional parties together, has decided to convene "a forum for democracy" to promote "democratic values and reject any authoritarian ideas."

Congressional Bureaucracy Substantially Reduced

PY0104132293 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p A5

[Text] Congress, which employed 3,232 employees, as of next month will become a modern and efficient institution with only 215 employees following a reorganization and streamlining of its services.

On 5 April 1992 there were 1,191 employees working for the Chamber of Deputies and 2,041 for the Senate. Of this total, 2,227 had been contracted for an indefinite period, and 1,005 were contracted for specific work periods.

These figures show an excessive number of employees because previous administrations had transformed Congress into an employment agency.

In view of this Congressional bureaucracy, Decree Law 25477 in May 1992 ordered a managerial reorganization process during which 1,133 employees who did not pass the evaluation tests were dismissed.

The CCD [Constituent Democratic Congress] began in December with 529 employees, a figure that was still excessive for the new structure. For this reason, a new reorganization and streamlining process was ordered for 14 January 1993.

A parallel voluntary resignation program was also established—which 350 employees decided to join—while the remaining 179 took an evaluation test on 13 March 1993. The results of the test will be released on 31 March.

Once the results are released, a public call will be made to fill any vacancies.

Constitution Commission Approves Judicial Branch Articles

PA0104154393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The Constitution Commission postponed the debate on the death penalty until the end of the 31 March

morning session. The commission approved, however, important articles dealing with the Judicial Branch.

The articles approved on the morning of 31 March basically preserve the existing constitutional guidelines regarding the Judicial Branch. Nevertheless, new figures were introduced, such as the gratuitousness of the administration of justice for poor people and the revocation by the people of the mandates of magistrates, according to Paragraph 18 of the second article approved.

Another important subject discussed by the Constitution Commission this morning was the Judicial Branch budget, which, according to the current Constitution, consists of 2 percent of the country's general budget. The article approved mentions no percentage and only says this state branch will draft a budget proposal.

[Begin Congressman Cesar Fernandez recording] We regard this point as inconvenient and will insist that this clause be restored because this would facilitate the administrative development of the Judicial Branch, whose structure is virtually 300 years old and dates back to the colonial period. This cannot be. The material portion requires money. It will be impossible to do a good job without an adequate budget. We will keep insisting on this. We are sure that, through reason and conscience, we will restore things at least to their former level. [end recording]

Alan Garcia's APRA Post Described as 'Symbolic'

PY0104030293 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p A3

[Text] In an official communique released yesterday, the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] announced that Alan Garcia Perez has been "confirmed" in his honorary post as the APRA "secretary general in exile." The communique—which was signed by Luis Alberto Sanchez, Luis Alva Castro, and Armando Villanueva del Campo, among others—has thus paved the way for the possible appointment of another leader to the key position in the party machinery: the—plain—secretary general.

Some sources said that an elegant procedure has been used to remove Garcia because this is an honorable way for the former president to leave the top party post.

In its second point, the APRA communique creates the Temporary General Secretariat, whose term will not exceed 60 days and which will assume "every power and responsibility bestowed upon the secretary general." In its third point, the communique calls for an immediate party plenary meeting.

Garcia, who is residing in Colombia of his own volition, has thus earned the honorary title of "secretary general in exile," a symbolic post that will no longer enable him to control the old party founded by Haya de la Torre.

The actual party leadership will rest from now on with the "Temporary General Secretariat," which will have full powers and reportedly will consist of Luis Alberto Sanchez, Armando Villanueva, Luis Alva Castro, and other leaders.

Thus, the crisis provoked by former Education Minister Mercedes Cabanillas' resignation as deputy secretary general now has taken a new, significant turn. As EXPRESO predicted yesterday, Cabanillas' departure from the APRA leadership could mark the beginning of the end of the "pro-Alan faction" within the APRA.

In the meantime, in a clear attempt to prevent APRA leaders from "gluing themselves" to power, the "Generation in Motion" ["Generacion en Marcha"] group joined the Hector Vargas Haya-led group in demanding that the Temporary General Secretariat call a special congress to renew party officials through elections monitored by the Association of Notaries Public.

The APRA communique, however, has only called a plenary meeting, which may not be empowered to make these decisions.

Jose Luis Fernandini, a member of the Vargas Haya-led group, said that "the appointment of this emergency commission and Garcia's confirmation look like applying cosmetics to a tumor."

For his part, Hernan Garrido-Leca of "Generation in Motion" said "Temporary General Secretariat" members should not have elected themselves and should call a party congress.

Ramiro Fernando Priale Zeballos described Garcia's confirmation as "far-fetched" and noted that the situation called for the resignation of the entire national executive board, "as would have happened in any other party elsewhere in the world."

Head of State Confirmed as Armed Forces Supreme Commander

PY0104171293 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p A3

[Text] During an evening session, the constitutional committee of the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] yesterday confirmed the head of state as National Defense System president and endorsed his powers to organize and deploy the Armed Forces and the police and to order their engagement.

This is established in Paragraph 17, Article 11, Chapter 5 of the future Constitution. CCD member Carlos Ferrero Costa said that this provision confirms the constitutional trend of establishing the president of the Republic as the leader of the Armed Forces and the police.

During his briefing, Ferrero Costa insisted that the president of the Republic must be the leading authority, both for civilians and the military.

During the session the Constitutional Committee approved a number of powers of the president of the Republic, including that of appointing ambassadors and plenipotentiary ministers with the approval of the Council of Ministers and after informing Congress.

The head of state must also safeguard domestic order and foreign security, and implement a system of national defense for our territorial integrity and our sovereignty.

It was also established in Article 8 of the new constitutional text that, in the temporary or permanent absence of the president of the Republic, the first vice president will take over his duties. If the first vice president is unable to take over, the second vice president will take over. If neither is able, the Congress president—who will immediately call elections if the impediment is permanent—will take over.

When the president leaves our national territory, the first vice president will discharge his duties.

Armed Forces Commander on Pacification Strategy

PA0204152593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] General Nicolas De Bari Hermoza Rios, commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command, said 236 rebels in Alto Huallaga have surrendered to avail themselves of the Repentant Law. Here is what General Hermoza Rios said:

[Begin recording] [Hermoza] The meeting was secret, therefore I am not authorized to discuss key issues. I can say, however, that one of the issues discussed was pacification, a matter of interest for all Peruvians, particularly for the Defense Commission. I explained the government's pacification strategy. I also explained what is being done at the military level with regard to that strategy. I want to stress that I presented the strategic objectives that the Joint Command and the Public Forces in general are working on and the achievements made so far in the pacification effort.

[Unidentified reporter] Will there be any changes to the pacification mission that is under way, taking into account recent events such as the jail breaks and the president's announcement about changes in the Repentance Law for terrorists.

[Hermoza] No, we are simply making adjustments. I think we are using the right strategy. We are applying an overall strategy in all areas, not just at the military level. It includes the political side, which you see every day in every sector. All sectors, areas, and ministries are carrying out the government's objectives in their respective fields.

[Reporter] Do you have details on the number of repentant terrorists?

[Hermoza] I will be giving you more specific details in a few days, but I can tell you now that there are approximately 236. [end recording]

U.S. 'Antinarcotics' Radar To Be Removed

PY0104134393 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Mar 93 p A11

[Text] Military sources, especially of the FAP [Peruvian Air Force], were surprised to discover that the "antinarcotics" radar installed by the U.S. Government in Yurimaguas will be removed just as the need to install two more radars was being considered.

The U.S. Southern Command of Panama installed the radars after Peruvian officials demonstrated the need for that type of equipment to confront the drug traffickers in the jungle.

The radars installed in Andoas and Iquitos were subsequently removed by the U.S. Government and only through a great effort were they replaced by one in Yurimaguas. There was hope that in the next few days another radar would be installed at "another strategic point" in the jungle.

Radar is extremely important to the FAP, which watches the air space that is continuously being violated by "narco" planes that have better logistical equipment and can almost always avoid detection by the territorial and air control system.

Military sources also said that the radar at Yurimaguas was not very helpful because it was not as "modern" as was initially believed. They said: "It was out of order more often than not."

That radar, which was not ideal for the hard and delicate task in the region, showed several deficiencies in its operation.

Military sources confirmed that "electronic intelligence" flights by U.S. airplanes were resumed last January.

The "Awac" and "Orion" planes can detect "narco" installations from the air and can listen to traffickers using their powerful radio equipment.

The USAF "electronic intelligence" airplanes are equipped with modern radar—one on top of the plane like a "hat," and another under the "belly." One of these airplanes was involved in an incident with two Peruvian fighter bombers in Talara last year. This is why the flights were suspended until their resumption last January.

To achieve the resumption of these flights, top U.S. and Peruvian military commanders discussed the procedures that should be adopted before, during, and after the flights.

The FAP continues to control airfields and airports in Upper Huallaga and to destroy clandestine airstrips, but mafia planes are now landing on the Marginal and the Federico Basadre highways.

To do that they cut the trees on both sides of the highway to provide room for the wings of the planes. The FAP and the police forces in that region place cement blocs on the highway to prevent planes landings.

Intalaza Rocket Aimed at Defense Ministry Defused

PA0104144593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Terrorists forced their way into a house and drugged five members of a family to install an Instalaza rocket aimed at the Armed Forces joint command on the third block of Arequipa Avenue in Santa Beatrice, Lima. A

quick reaction by the Explosive Device Defusing Unit thwarted the attack. The rebels are using this new method of attack to carry out their mad actions.

As of 1930 [OO30 GMT] there was a significant number of policemen and firemen at the intersection of Saco Oliveros and Republica de Chile Streets in Santa Beatrice. Members of the Explosive Device Defusing Unit are surrounding a high-powered explosive device, an Instalaza rocket that has been...[pauses] that has not exploded. Maria Cruz is trapped inside the building on Saco Oliveros Street. Terrorists left the explosive device inside a house under construction a few meters from the Society of Founders of the Independence, from the Supreme Council of Military Justice, and from the Defense Ministry. According to the explosive experts, the device is made of 500 kg of a mixture of ammonium nitrate fuel oil and dynamite. [passage omitted]

The rocket was to be fired in 60 minutes, but when the sixth member of the family arrived a half an hour later and saw the situation, he went to the police. The police quickly came to the site and after 45 minutes of hard work by firemen and members of the Explosive Device Defusing Unit, it can be said that the emergency is under control.

Armed Forces Chief Notes Drug-Trafficking Increase

PY3103225693 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Mar 93 p A12

[Article by Jose Antonio Indacochea Alvarez]

[Text] Tarapoto, 18 March—Drug-trafficking has increased significantly in the Upper Huallaga region despite the National Police's and Armed Forces' efforts to control it.

Coca production and illegal trade also have increased, and drug traffickers continue using some airstrips in the area to ship gross and washed cocaine paste with total impunity.

Army General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command, pointed out that drug traffickers are using the Saposoa, Bellavista, Sion, and Puerto Pizana airstrips to take the drugs out.

The Air Force has began patrolling the Saposoa airstrip, but only for a few hours a day due to logistical problems. When Air Force personnel return to the Santa Lucia base, the "narcos" take over the airstrip.

Gen. Hermoza Rios said they are trying to improve this situation because drug traffickers are shipping the drug out practically from under their "noses"—due, of course, to logistical problems.

Gen. Hermoza said that at night, from the top of the hill where the Saposoa base is located, it is possible to see the two lights (of small planes) arriving at the airstrip. These planes stay for some three minutes and immediately take off again.

"The airstrip is rather far from here—we proved that ourselves—and the distance limits the time we have to react and reach the airstrip. This is something we are going to correct," the military commander said.

Besides the airstrips, drug traffickers continue using stretches of the Marginal and Federico Basadre highways as airstrips.

The most scandalous case occurred in Campanilla. Here drug traffickers widened a stretch of 1,800 meters of the Marginal Highway up to some 20 meters (the highway normally is only 5 to 6 meters wide).

On 18 August, the military came and planted one-tonne piles with a long steel spike inside to prevent landings. The "narcos," however, pulled the piles out with tractors.

"In view of this situation, I ordered mines to be planted in the central section of the airstrip with barbed wire to prevent accidents. We also installed a base for permanent patrols, and soldiers have orders to shoot at any approaching plane or at any person trying to get close to the barbed wire," Hermoza said.

Gen. Hermoza Rios arrived in the area yesterday to inspect the Army work at the site.

The general said the Army neutralized or destroyed clandestine airstrips in Paraiso, Cruz Pampa, Uchiza, Pondo D'Pomaza, and Aguaytia, just as it was done in Campanilla.

Another sign of increased drug-trafficking is the growth of the area used to cultivate coca.

Army General Eduardo Bellido Mora, Huallaga Front commander general, said that—according to data provided by CORAH [Upper Huallaga Coca Control and Reduction Agency]—it was estimated that by the end of last year, 180,000 hectares were being used to cultivate coca. Presently, the Agriculture Department estimates this total has increased to 200,000.

It is known that coca plantations have increased mainly in the Huallaga, Maranon, Aguaytia, Apurimac, Ene, and Urubamba basins.

Gen. Bellido Mora said that so far the results of the fight against subversion have been positive. The general said there were 256 operations last year and 108 of them ended in direct clashes with the Shining Path and MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement].

Gen. Bellido said there has been significant progress and the Army now control areas once dominated by terrorists.

The general said the Army has seized 332 weapons, including 131 light automatic rifles, 71 breech-loading riffles, 63 machine guns, and 45 revolvers.

"This also shows how weak they are logistically. This has a direct influence on their military strength and activity," the officer commented.

The general said there are 174 "repented" terrorists (18 belong to the Shining Path and 156 to MRTA) who are effectively cooperating with the forces of order.

There is a group of 11 "repented" terrorists (six belonging to the Shining Path and five to MRTA) who have turned themselves in with their own weapons.

It was known that one of these cases occurred near Tocache. The individual is a former Army member who had been won over by the subversives. However, the individual changed his mind again and escaped months ago from a terrorist camp, taking three weapons from his former comrades with him.